



## Jayce 337928: What to Expect

**Jayce is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Jayce is a goofy puppy with a lot of love to give! This handsome little man LOVES playing with other dogs and squeaky toys, and he's putting in the work to learn that people are pretty cool too. Jayce comes to OHS through our Second Chance program along with his mother and litter mates. This little family unit was terrified of this big transition into shelter life and Jayce would cower in the corner with his siblings, avoiding all the changes that they found so frightening. Moving Jayce down to the Behavior and Rescue Center allowed us to remove him from the overwhelming stimulation of the shelter and enrolling him in our Behavior Modification program has allowed us to introduce Jayce to new experiences in a much more manageable way. Jayce will do best in a home with patient and understanding owners that are ready to hit the ground running and commit to the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've had success with here at OHS! Jayce is a quick study and would love to take training classes and learn ALL the things with his new family!

Jayce can still be a shy and reserved puppy and is still working on the confidence to happily and eagerly greet new people. However, Jayce finds a lot of confidence in other dogs and is much more willing to try saying hi to someone if he can watch another dog do that. While not a requirement, Jayce would love to go home with another dog as a housemate! He would also find joy in playing with known, confident adult dogs, as the uncontrolled and often unpredictable set up of a dog park could potentially lead to negative experiences (like scuffles or harsh corrections) from other insecure or unfriendly dogs. We want to do our best to continue to nurture and support his confidence building, and that means being very intentional about the social situations we put him in!

We expect that Jayce will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping out of the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

### **Here's how to help Jayce settle in during your first months together:**

**Designate a "safe spot" in your home.** You can use a crate or taller baby gates to confine them to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise the dog, leave them in their safe spot. Slowly work toward leaving them alone, unsecured, once they've had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be comfortable.

**Be your dog's advocate.** It's okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a person from letting their dog come up to say hi to your dog. Watch their body language and help your dog out of situations if they appear stressed. Explain that Jayce is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming.

**Limit introductions to new people.** Take your time to get to know Jayce before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Jayce to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Jayce at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

**Use routine to get Jayce comfortable in their new home.** It will take a couple weeks for Jayce to feel comfortable in their new home and with you. Having a predictable schedule will help them adjust to their new home.

**Use treats and toys to build trust.** Maintaining and continuing Jayce's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Jayce has with his owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations

**Patience will come in handy for you.** Jayce responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. They will need an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping them learn to live in a home. Jayce will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

**"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training** to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Jayce on leash, attached to you or tethered to a large piece of furniture as you go about your daily routine. This will help with potty training, bonding, and creating boundaries within the home. Let Jayce drag the leash around the house or yard from time to time to simulate "freedom", but do not let them off leash until they can 100% be trusted not to get into things they shouldn't. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate Jayce when you cannot watch them. This will ensure their puppy curiosity doesn't get them into any trouble. You will have long lasting success if you follow this method.

**Take a training class.** Jayce would benefit from taking some training classes with their new owners and would love to learn more alongside their family in a training class. Training classes help strengthen the bond between owner and dog by creating clear and precise communication so there are no misunderstandings. You can find more info about our training classes on our website at (<https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/training-at-ohs/>).

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Jayce does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new people well. The vet can still be a scary place. Bringing tasty treats like cheese and/or hot dogs can help make the experience more pleasant.

Try using **Adaptil (Dog Appeasing Pheromone)** or **Rescue Remedy by Bach Flower Essences**. These products may help dogs settle in new environments by easing the stress associated with change.

## **We're here to help!**

We want Jayce to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Jayce, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-1145** or [BMODTrainers@oregonhumane.org](mailto:BMODTrainers@oregonhumane.org).

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you now and in the future. Reach out if you have questions or concerns, or just to give an update. We love to see photos and hear how our friends are doing! Thank you for adopting from the Oregon Humane Society. Congratulations on your new dog!