



Jessica 339342: What to Expect

Jessica is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Jessica is a silly young German Shepherd who loves to run around the yard, lean into her people for pets, and hang out with other dogs. She is a petite size, perfect for adventures and doesn't take up too much space on the bed! Jessica loves to get up and go and would do well in an active home where her exercise needs could be met. Looking for that next outdoorsy companion or running buddy? She's ready to get started! Jessica is very affectionate with people, but at first, she can sometimes be very nervous, choosing to stay back and observe, then over a few minutes will approach to sniff for a greet. Once comfortable, Jessica treats everyone as a friend, but it will be important her new family take things slow, so she learns to trust that her new family won't put her into situations she's uncomfortable with. Once confident and comfortable, she will be a great companion for every situation.

When it comes to other dogs, Jessica can be your typical high energy teenager – coming in hot and ready for action without first appropriately greeting. This can turn other dogs off and be considered rude, it will be important to encourage Jessica toward polite introductions of sniffing first and then deciding if it's ok to play. Dogs who are calm or older will find Jessica to be very rude, rough and tumble, and off putting. Other playful dogs will find her to be a blast and great play friend. Due to her play style, we believe she would not do well in uncontrolled environments like the dog park or doggie daycare. She could go into a home with another dog, a pet meet is required before adoption to ensure their compatibility.

Here's how to help Jessica settle in during your first months together:

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

Use routine to get Jessica comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Jessica 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 Jessica's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Jessica has with his owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations.

Patience will come in handy for you. Jessica 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. Jessica will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

Jessica needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Jessica loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and chase a flirt pole. Giving your dog a healthy outlet for some of their energy will help them settle during calm hours at home.

Take a training class. Jessica 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/>).

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 Jessica is not comfortable with strangers at first 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.

"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Jessica 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 Jessica 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 Jessica 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.

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Jessica does very well at the vet, with patience 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 Jessica to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Jessica, 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.

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!