



Violet 337927: What to Expect

Violet is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Violet is an adorable little cattle dog gal with the CUTEST merle markings on her face! She adores other dogs and thinks comically large squeaky toys are the coolest thing ever. Violet comes to OHS through our Second Chance program along with her mother and litter mates. This little family unit was terrified of this big transition into shelter life and Violet would cower in the corner with her siblings, avoiding all the change that they found so frightening. Moving Violet down to the Behavior and Rescue Center allowed us to remove her from the overwhelming stimulation of the shelter and enrolling her in our Behavior Modification program has allowed us to introduce Violet to new experiences in a much more manageable way. On occasion Violet has barked at new stimuli that she finds overwhelming, like new people or dogs at a distance. Adopters will need to be ready to continue to support and build up her confidence with the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've had success with here at OHS. Violet loves working for tasty snacks like cheese and jerky treats and would be an excellent student in any group training class!

While Violet is still working on building up her own confidence, she finds being brave easier if she has another confident dog with her. Watching another dog interact with people or new environments makes her feel braver to try new things as well and could benefit from living with another confident dog in her new home. If Violet isn't living with another dog, she would benefit from playdates with known, confident, and friendly dogs. Uncontrolled social situations like dog parks or doggie daycare could accidentally set Violet up for a negative interaction with an unfriendly or under socialized dog. Instead, future adopters will want to be intentional and mindful about the situations they put her in, such as having one-on-one playdates with known dogs in a fenced back yard or Sniffspot. Being mindful and implementing management to set Violet up for success will do wonders alongside all the hands-on training she'll get!

We expect that Violet 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 Violet 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 Violet 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.

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

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

Patience will come in handy for you. Violet 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. Violet 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 Violet 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 Violet 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 Violet 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. Violet 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. Violet 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 Violet to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Violet, 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!