



Croque Madame 338627: What to Expect

Croque Madame is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Madame is a shy girl who is still learning how to exist within the wide expanse and uncertainty of the world. She has a timid demeanor and is looking for a family who can help her blossom and grow into a confident family dog. She was born on a rural property free roaming outside with over 60 other dogs. While it was in Madame's best interest to be removed from this property, that wide open space had been all she had known for her whole life. Prior to coming to OHS she had never lived indoors, walked on a leash, been pet by a human, or played with toys. It has been a big adjustment for Madame to get comfortable with things we are habituated to, like walking on indoor floors, living inside, riding in cars, and meeting new people. Madame enjoys the company of other social and confident dogs, and would prefer a resident dog in the home, but it is not required. She would not do well with a rowdy dog who likes to wrestle in play and would do best with a male dog. A pet meet is required before adoption to ensure personalities are a match.

During her time in the shelter, Madame spent her time curled up and frightened by the loud noises and busy atmosphere of the shelter, not trusting people to have her best interest in mind. Madame is still learning about the big wide world through neutral and positive experiences and to help her succeed, we feel she would do best with quick and easy access to a yard where she can be off leash to potty and play. Madame can be a little too excited, interested, or certain in her environment to relax and eliminate while on a walk, but with frequent trips to the yard she will be successful in reducing accidents in the house. With patience and time we believe Madame will settle into a lovable playful lab who will supply you with much love and enthusiasm.

Here's how to help Croque Madame 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.

Practice crate training. Start by feeding meals in a wire crate and work your way up from there. It will be in your best interest to **slowly** increase time in the crate, so they view it as a safe, comfortable spot. When you cannot monitor your dog in the home, allow them some time to settle and relax in the crate.

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 Croque Madame is not comfortable with people and doesn’t enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

Don’t take Croque Madame to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., Home Depot, etc.).

Let them drag a leash attached to their collar for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you’ll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

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

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

We expect that Croque Madame 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!**

Visiting the Vet: Unless it's an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary, but if your dog already trusts you, your presence may help them feel more comfortable.

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 Croque Madame to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Croque Madame, 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!