



## Crumpet 336105: What to Expect

**Crumpet is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Crumpet is a very sweet and silly boy who is putting in the work to learn how to be brave! He's learned that he loves going for sniffy walks, playing with other friendly dogs, and thinks couches are the coolest thing ever. Crumpet came to OHS from a Humane Law Enforcement case, where he was living on a property with 50 other dogs. While it is always in an animal's best interest to remove them from these situations, many of these dogs have never walked on leash, had constant human affection, or lived inside. Coming into the shelter can be a huge culture shock, and Crumpet coped with these feelings of overwhelm by shutting down, avoiding handlers, and refusing to walk on leash. Bringing Crumpet into the Behavior Modification program has allowed us to build upon the fantastic base built up by dedicated volunteers and staff who continue to introduce Crumpet to these new experiences. We believe Crumpet will do best in a home with patient and understanding adopters who are ready to continue introducing him to new experiences with the same positive reinforcement-based methods we've had success with at OHS. It could take a few months before Crumpet feels safe and comfortable in a home environment and perhaps longer before he truly understands what it means to be a pet dog.

While Crumpet has made much progress working with us, he's still sensitive and fearful of the world around him. He would do best in a quiet, lower traffic home and neighborhood away from the hustle and bustle of a downtown like neighborhood. Small children can often be unpredictable and loud, and he would do best in a home with older dog savvy kids. While at OHS, Crumpet has met both dogs from the same property, and unrelated dogs, and has had a blast playing with them. Uncontrolled social settings like dog parks may be overwhelming for Crumpet, but playdates with known confident dogs may be more his speed. Interested adopters with another dog currently in their home will need to complete a pet meet prior to adoption. We expect that Crumpet 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 Crumpet 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.

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

**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 Crumpet is not comfortable with new 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.

**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!

**Allow for time to build trust.** Always let Crumpet decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Crumpet decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and following your resident dog around.

**Supervise your dog outside.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Crumpet out alone. They are small and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! They do like to go for short walks and go outside to potty but need some time to build confidence to go on longer excursions in even the quietest of neighborhoods.

**Wait to take walks.** Crumpet will need time to bond with you before you start taking them for walks. Give them a couple of weeks to get to know you and their new home, then practice walking around your yard before trying a walk around the block. Crumpet will do best walking alongside a confident canine companion. They're already doing a great job of checking in with their human at the other end of the leash – continue encouraging this behavior to help strengthen the bond by offering treats.

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

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

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

**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.

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