



August 333993: What to Expect

August is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. August is a very sweet little herding dog gal looking for someone that needs an adventure sidekick! She loves to learn new things and would be an awesome beginner sport dog for someone looking to dip their toes into agility, or for someone looking for an active and fun pet dog. August was adopted from OHS as a young puppy, but as she grew older, started to struggle with the hustle and bustle of her home. With three young children in the home, August found their unpredictability and fast movements frightening and would attempt to control these behaviors like how a border collie would herd sheep, with her mouth. Bringing August into the Behavior Modification Program has allowed us to work with her to teach her new skills to navigate these situations that cause her uncertainty. Working on skills like disengaging from triggers, checking in with handlers, and general confidence building, August has made great progress! She's looking for adopters that can continue to work with her and give her the skills to navigate the world with more confidence and confidently advocate for her needs. She will need a quiet, low traffic home, without young children.

August also bounded very strongly with one of her owners and took it upon herself to guard this owner from other members of the family, again using her mouth to communicate her discomfort and insecurity. It will be important to manage this behavior and set up August's environment to prevent her from rehearsing the behavior. During her time in the Behavior Modification Program, August has easily accepted new people into her social circle with the use of toys and treats, two of her favorite things. There is a high possibility that August will again bond very strongly to whoever works with and trains her the most, so multi people households will need to be mindful and make sure they all share the responsibility of working with August.

In her last home, August enjoyed going to doggy daycare, and is a rowdy player that loves to chase. Dog parks and other dog social situations with limited control and screening may be overwhelming for her, and playing with known dogs or small daycare groups may be more August's speed. She may enjoy living with another social and playful dog or soaking up all the love and attention for herself. She will need to meet any resident dogs prior to adoption to ensure the dogs are a compatible match.

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

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 August is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

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

If you're having people over, put August on leash so they learn to not dart out the front door or jump all over people. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask August to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

August needs daily exercise to reduce stress. August 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.

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.

“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have August 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 August 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 August 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. August 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’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 August to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with August, 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!