



Bagel 336088: What to Expect

Bagel is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Bagel came to OHS through our Humane Law department, who worked with an overwhelmed owner with 40+ Great Pyrenees/Pyrenees mixes on their property. While it's in a dog's best interest to be removed from these situations, these dogs lack much of the proper socialization and experiences that most pet dogs receive. Bagel found himself overwhelmed upon arrival to OHS, and his high levels of fear and anxiety caused him to shut down and withdraw from both staff and volunteers, refusing to walk or leave his kennel. Bagel's move to the Behavior Modification program allowed us to continue the work that staff and volunteers started, introducing Bagel to walking nicely on leash and interacting with new people. While he's made lots of progress, Bagel is looking for a family that's ready and able to continue introducing him to new experiences using the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've had success with while at OHS.

While Bagel has made a lot of great progress during his time at OHS, there are still things that can frighten him. When Bagel is nervous or uncomfortable he will try to move away from what scares him. This can look like darting or pulling to the end of his leash or hiding under furniture. If pushed further in this frightened state, he could growl to communicate his discomfort. Because of this, we believe he will do best in a low traffic home, away from the hustle & bustle of downtown or busy neighborhoods. We expect that Bagel 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!**

Bagel enjoys the company of other dogs, no matter their size, but his exuberance and zest for life could be a bit much for elder or sensitive dogs. While he is very dog friendly, the uncontrolled settings of the dog park will likely be too much for Bagel, but scheduled play dates with known dogs in a secure backyard or SniffSpot would be a better match. A pet meet is required with any resident dog to ensure compatibility. Bagel is untested with cats.

Here's how to help Bagel 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 Bagel is not comfortable with strange people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Bagel decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Bagel 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.

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

Take Bagel outside on leash. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Bagel out alone. They are very nervous that they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Bagel does like to go for walks and go outside to potty but needs some time to figure out the routine before being trusted off leash.

Bagel needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Bagel 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.

Don't take Bagel 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.).

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 Bagel 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 Bagel 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 Bagel 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.

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

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