



Concha 338190: What to Expect

Concha is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Concha is a happy & goofy husky puppy! She loves playing with toys, romping with her dog friends, and is motivated to learn new things. She would love nothing more than to be your adventure pal to go on hikes or beach trips together!

Being a young adolescent dog, Concha is learning to regulate her emotions and with that comes some typical teenage behavior of jumping, mouthing, and a lack of body awareness. When Concha is frustrated, overly excited, or attempting to communicate her discomfort, instead of moving away she can instead jump on her handlers and use her mouth attempting to grab onto loose fitting clothes, bags, or the leash. We've been successful at OHS using positive reinforcement techniques and redirecting Concha's energy into appropriate outlets such as playing with toys, training basic manners, and learning to relax amongst the chaos.

We've introduced Concha to multiple dogs here at OHS and determined she can be a little socially awkward at times. While Concha is excited and appropriate with other dogs, her rough and tumble play style isn't for everyone. We've been successful teaching her to remain calm at the sight of dogs, to sniff calmly first, and then turn to play if the other dog reciprocates. Shy, calm, easily offended, and/or unsocialized dogs will find Concha overwhelming, but dogs who share her play style will find her a delight. Due to this behavior, we don't believe she is a candidate for the uncontrolled environment of the dog park or doggie daycare. Scheduled visits with known dogs in a securely fenced yard or SniffSpot will be best for her continued success and confidence building.

Concha would do best in a home without tiny children as she could knock them over, steal their toys or food, and become easily overstimulated by their unpredictable fast movements and loud noises. She is dog social and would do best with another playful and confident resident dog who isn't easily offended by playful behavior.

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

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Concha decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Concha 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 treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Concha's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Concha has with their owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations.

If you're having people over, put Concha 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 Concha to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Concha needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Concha 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 Concha 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.).

Work on having Concha settle on a mat, dog bed, or cot and gently praise them for lying down. If they get up to pace, call them back and use a treat to lure them into a down again. If Concha is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do this.

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