



London 337183: What to Expect

London is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. London is a lovable lab who makes friends everywhere she goes. Seriously, she loves to say hi to every person she meets and wears the cutest smile while doing so. She adores pets and would love to be your couch captain as you Netflix and chill. We've introduced London to multiple dogs of various size during her time at OHS. She adores the company of other dogs no matter their size but prefers gentle dogs over those who like to wrestle. She was born on a rural property and came to OHS through our Humane Law Department; her former owner was struggling to care for the large number of dogs they had on their rural property. While it was in London'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 London to get comfortable with things we are habituated to, like walking on indoor floors, wearing a collar, living inside, seeing cars, and even the sights and noise from a television. Every day she makes progress in adjusting to the big wide world and would love a calm and patient home where she can continue to grow.

When London arrived at OHS, she was so fearful of her new situation, she did not move around her kennel and would cower away from people. We moved London to our Behavior Modification program where she could have a calm and quiet environment in which to gain comfort and confidence. Once she became comfortable walking on leash, we noticed she had an unusual gait. Our veterinary team was able to examine her and determined she had hip dysplasia in one of her hips, which required surgery to repair so she could be free from pain. She underwent a Femoral Head Ostectomy, which required several week of rehabilitation and physical therapy. During which time London spent time in a foster home. Her foster parents say she's affectionate and was comfortable and respectful of the resident cat and small dog. While London is making great progress there are still many things she is learning to conquer, such as stairs, riding in the car, and busy environments with high traffic.

Here's how to help London 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.

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

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

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

Don't take London 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.).

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