



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 looking for someone that needs an adventurous sidekick! She is an incredibly fast learner and if you're not careful, she'll start training you! She 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. She needs an active family who can keep her brain and body moving, so quiet hours at home are calm and relaxing. An active home with daily training and exercise will help her develop best into a well-adjusted adult dog. She would not do well in a sedentary home or one with only walks around the neighborhood as the form of exercise. This girl needs to get up and go as well as a regimented training plan. A home without children or cats is a must. August shows a lot of typical herding dog behavior such as hyper focusing on small animals/children, herding "large" people & dogs through barking and nipping, and is so smart she never falls for the same trick twice. She needs dedicated owners who have experience working with working breed herding dogs or will be serious about her training journey by taking some professional dog training classes to help her achieve her best success.

In two previous homes, August bonded hard to one family member and resource guarded every other person away from them with barking, lunging, and nipping. This put unnecessary strain on the family as only one person found joy in companionship with August and in turn August did not trust any others or show affection. She is looking for a low traffic home with dedicated owners who will work to prevent her from practicing these behaviors. While it's an incredible bond to have a dog devoted to you, it is unhealthy to allow her to feel the need to protect her resources constantly. It can increase anxiety, create unhealthy attachments leading to dangerous habits, and August may never learn how to truly relax or grow in resilience. Bringing August into the Behavior Modification Program has allowed us to work with her to teach her some 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 is a quick study and needs a home that will teach and reinforce boundaries, so she doesn't have to guess what is or isn't acceptable. Predictability helps ease anxious minds.

In her last home, August enjoyed going to doggy daycare, and was described as 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. Distance is calming.

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

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.

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

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.

Work on having August settle on a mat 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 August is on leash, you can hold him 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 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 him off leash until he can 100% be trusted not to get into things they shouldn’t. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate them 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/>).

Practice “Leave it.” August may bark and lunge if they see other dogs out on a walk. When a dog is sighted, **before** they start barking, say “leave it.” When they turn to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming.

Don’t take August 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’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!