



Dennis 346561: What to Expect

Dennis is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Dennis is a goofy, sweet young dog ready to put a smile on your face! He loves finding new things to sniff while out on walks, zooming around the yards, and learning new things with his handlers. Dennis comes to Oregon Humane through our Second Chance program, where he found the hustle and bustle of shelter life overwhelming. In these overwhelmed states, Dennis would jump and mouth at handler's loose-fitting clothes, leashes, and treat bags. Bringing Dennis into the Behavior Modification program has allowed us to offer a calmer and controlled environment and introduce alternate behaviors for Dennis to default to when he starts to feel overstimulated. Teaching him to sit and wait, check in with handlers on leash, and keep all four paws on the ground has given him more tools to navigate these big emotions. Adopters will need to be ready to continue working with Dennis with the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've found success with here at Oregon Humane.

During his time with us, we've introduced Dennis to multiple different dogs. While excited to meet other dogs around his own size, Dennis can come in hot during greetings and often misses signals that other dogs may be uncomfortable with his forwardness. A pet met prior to adoption will be needed to make sure any other dogs in the home and Dennis get along well. Dennis would not be a match for dog parks or other places with high amounts of uncontrolled social interactions and would rather enjoy playdates with known social dogs at a Sniffspot or in a backyard. During his time with us, we've also noticed a high prey drive towards small animals, and he will need a home without cats, small dogs, or other tiny critters as well.

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

Use routine to get Dennis comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Dennis 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 Dennis' training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Dennis has with his owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations

Patience will come in handy for you. Dennis 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. [NAME] will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

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

Work on having Dennis 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 Dennis 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 Dennis 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 Dennis 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 he shouldn't. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate him when you cannot watch him.

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. Dennis 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/>).

Skip the dog park. Don't take Dennis to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Taking leashed hikes to the river, playing in the backyard, or to places not frequented by many other dogs will allow for exercise, but keep Dennis calm and engaged with you.

Don't take Dennis 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. 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 Dennis to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Dennis, 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!