



Scarlett 346794: What to Expect

Scarlett is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Scarlett is a very mindful, and very demure young German Shepherd. She's sweet, affectionate, and just the right amount of silly. She is always ready to zoom on adventures or flop over for snuggles like she worked very hard doing absolutely nothing. Whether it's trails or couch time, she's all in for your Pacific Northwest lifestyle. Scarlett came to Oregon Humane from rural Oregon, and her history is a mystery. When Scarlett is feeling unsure or uncomfortable, she likes to create a little space from whatever is worrying her. This might look like pulling away, ducking her head when someone comes in for pets, or trying to hide. While in our Behavior Modification Program, Scarlett has made wonderful progress! By taking things slow and keeping experiences positive, we've helped her build confidence with new people, places, and situations. Her future adopters will play an important role in continuing this journey; going at her pace and using the same positive, reward-based training that's helped her succeed so far. Scarlett truly thrives with patience and understanding, and once she feels safe and comfortable, she's a loving, enthusiastic companion who will bombard you with snuggles and smooches.

During Scarlett's time at Oregon Humane, we've been able to introduce her to a variety of other dogs and have learned that she really enjoys playtime! Her excitement to interact with other dogs can sometimes lead to pulling on leash or barking when she sees them. To help her build good habits, we avoid on-leash greetings in those moments, as allowing her to say hello while barking or pulling can reinforce that behavior. Instead, Scarlett has been doing great learning to sit and wait calmly before being invited to greet or play, and she's making wonderful progress. Scarlett could thrive in a home with another social, playful dog, and we do require a pet meet prior to adoption to help ensure a good fit. That said, she doesn't need a canine companion and may also be perfectly happy soaking up all the love and attention as your one and only.

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

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

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

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

Scarlett needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Scarlett 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.

Take a training class. Scarlett 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/>).

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. Oregon Humane Society | 1067 NE Columbia Blvd. | Portland, OR 97211
Pet Behavior Help Line: (503)416-2983 | [oregonhumane.org/training](https://www.oregonhumane.org/training)

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 Scarlett is not comfortable with strangers at first and doesn’t enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming.

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

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Scarlett does very well at the vet, with patience 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.

We’re here to help!

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