



## Honey Bunches 348288: What to Expect

**Honey Bunches is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Honey Bunches is a wonderfully sweet little German Shepherd puppy! While she takes her duties of being a puppy very seriously, she also loves seeing her favorite people, trying out new enrichment, and romping around with other friendly dogs! Honey Bunches comes to OH through our Second Chance program, where she struggled in a county shelter with the hustle and bustle of shelter life. This caused Honey Bunches to withdraw from handlers and opt to avoid interaction and stress by moving away or freezing in these situations. Bringing her into the Behavior Modification program has given us the ability to offer a calmer environment and predictability in Honey Bunches' day, allowing her time to decompress and build trust. Honey Bunches has made great progress with her confidence, taking both new training skills and experiences in stride. She'll need understanding and patient adopters that are ready to continue building up her confidence and training skills with the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've found success with at OH.

During her time in the shelter, we've introduced Honey Bunches to multiple other dogs in the BMod program. With other social and playful dogs, she has a blast running around the yards and engaging in some light wrestling! To continue her positive and excited outlook on meeting other dogs, future adopters should set Honey Bunches up for success with playdates with other known and appropriate dogs, rather than the unpredictability that the dog park can bring. A negative experience with an unknown dog could easily set Honey Bunches back in her social confidence, and being mindful of these interactions will be best practice for this sensitive gal.

### **Here's how to help Honey Bunches 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 towards leaving them alone unsecured once they've had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be comfortable.

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 Honey Bunches is not comfortable with people 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.

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

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

When you have people over, it's okay to put Honey Bunches in another room. If you'd like Honey Bunches to meet a guest, put them on a leash and give them time to adjust before allowing your guest to pet. Let it be Honey Bunches' choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding Honey Bunches or forcing them to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Honey Bunches' training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Honey Bunches has with their owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations. Patience will come in handy for you. Honey Bunches 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. Honey Bunches will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

Honey Bunches needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Honey Bunches 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.

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 Honey Bunches 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 Honey Bunches 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 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. Honey Bunches 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'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 Honey Bunches to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Honey Bunches, 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](mailto: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!