



Jackie 347544: What to Expect

Jackie is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Jackie is a sweet and scruffy gal looking for her adventure buddy! She loves to get the zoomies, show off how fast she can zip around, and loves sampling new snacks when it's time to settle down on the couch. Jackie comes to Oregon Humane through our Second Chance program, where she struggled with the hustle and bustle of shelter life in her previous shelter. When overwhelmed, Jackie will avoid these triggers by backing away, attempting to flee, or freezing. Moving Jackie into the Behavior Modification program has allowed us to provide a space for Jackie to decompress, and to work on introducing new experiences and situations in a safe and controlled manner. Jackie is a very curious gal that loves to learn new things! She will do best in a quiet and low traffic home with patient and understanding adopters that are able to continue using the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've found success with at OH.

During her time with us, Jackie has met multiple dogs in the shelter. Jackie can easily be overwhelmed by overly rambunctious dogs and seems to prefer calmer and more socially appropriate dogs. Once she's feeling comfortable, she loves to play chase and tag! Situations with high amounts of uncontrolled social situations with unknown dogs, like dog parks, may not be the best fit for Jackie. She'd rather check out cool Sniffspots or play with known appropriate dogs in a fenced backyard. We expect that Jackie will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping out of the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

Here's how to help Jackie 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 Jackie is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

Don't take Jackie 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.).

Let them drag a leash attached to their collar for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Jackie decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Jackie decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and following your resident dog around.

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Jackie out alone. They are small and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! They do like to go for short walks and go

outside to potty but need some time to build confidence to go on longer excursions in even the quietest of neighborhoods.

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 Jackie 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 Jackie 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.

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Jackie 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.

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

