



## Nelly 344653: What to Expect

**Nelly is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Nelly is a sweet young dog with big ears and an even bigger heart! She loves training with her handlers, romping around the play yard with other social dogs, and is ready for her big PNW adventurous life! Nelly is learning to regulate her emotions and understand she and her resources are safe. She can at times, decide high value food is at risk of been taken away from nearby people or dogs and attempt to “protect it.” This can look like becoming stiff over the resource, growling, and snapping if attempts to take the resource away happen. In a previous home, Nelly did bite a resident dog over a scuffle with food. Future adopters will need to be ready to continue the same positive reinforcement-based training methods and thoughtful management, like crating for feeding and high value treats, to continue having success moving forward with Nelly. She would do well in a home without small children who are also learning to regulate their emotions, movements, and respect other’s spaces.

Nelly has met multiple other dogs during her time with us and has shown she’s very dog social and enjoys the company of other dogs. She loves romping in the yard, playing chase, and going on walks together. At her young age when she sees other dogs and people she excitedly wants to say hi and can pull on leash or whine in attempt to greet. Future adopters will find success reducing this behavior by not rewarding Nelly with leashed greetings when she’s in this state. Practicing engagement and moving through the world by observing will help her teenage brain adopt polished manners. Nelly 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/>).

### **Here’s how to help Nelly settle in during your first months together:**

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

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

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

**Feed meals and treats separately** from resident dog. To help Nelly adjust to their new home, encourage separate feedings, no leftover empty bowls, and enough resource for each to enjoy in their own safe places. Monitor dogs when out together.

**Nelly needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Nelly 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.

**Don't take Nelly 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.).

**Practice "Leave it."** Nelly 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.

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Nelly 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 Nelly to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Nelly, 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!

