



Tiffany 348184: What to Expect

Tiffany a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Tiffany is a happy and playful young dog! She absolutely adores playing with toys, running around the yard, splashing in the pool, and is motivated to learn new things with her people! When Tiffany is excited, she may jump up onto her handlers, and if overstimulated further, may grab onto the leash, loose fitting clothing, or bags/purses with her mouth. During one of these moments of overexcitement, when Tiffany was meeting someone new, she jumped up onto them for attention and when overstimulated further, mouthed their hand, accidentally breaking skin with her teeth. We've been successful teaching Tiffany alternative behaviors such as sitting and waiting for leashing or before receiving pets. She will need patient owners, without young children, who can continue her training, using the same positive reinforcement-based training we've found successful here at Oregon Humane. **Take a training class.** Tiffany 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/>).

During Tiffany's time at Oregon Humane we've introduced her to a variety of dogs and seen that she likes to play! While Tiffany does like to play with other dogs, those feelings of excitement and enthusiasm for life can cause frustration when seeing another dog and not being able to immediately run up to say hello. When on leash, or behind a barrier such as a fence, if she sees another dog, Tiffany will pull hard on leash and bark. It's important not to allow her to greet dogs on leash or when displaying these behaviors as greeting dogs will only reinforce to Tiffany that when she barks & pulls, she gets to say hello. Instead, we've been successful teaching Tiffany to walk nicely on leash and "leave it", checking back in with her handlers when she sees another dog on walks. Because of this, Tiffany is not a candidate for uncontrolled settings like dog parks or doggie daycare. Instead, she is better suited for one-on-one playdates with known dogs in a fenced backyard or SniffSpot. We believe Tiffany could live with another well-socialized dog (or dogs). She will need to meet any potential canine companions before going home to ensure the dogs are a good match and comfortable with each other.

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

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

Tiffany needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Tiffany 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.

Don't take Tiffany 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.).

Work on having Tiffany 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 Tiffany is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do this.

Walk Tiffany on an appropriate walking tool. We have been using a special head halter, called a transitional leash, to help guide Tiffany to walk nicely on leash with little to no pulling. When Tiffany sees other dogs on walks, they become incredibly excited and then frustrated that they cannot run up to say hello and play, causing them to jump, pull, whine, bark, and sometimes growl. It will be important to never let Tiffany run up to other dogs on leash as that can reinforce their frustrations.

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 Tiffany 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 Tiffany 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.

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