



Ace 352251: What to Expect

Ace is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Ace is a silly, fun-loving young dog looking for someone that has room in their lap for 60 pounds of pittie mix! He loves sampling new snacks, zipping around the yards, and wading in kiddie pools. Ace comes to OH through a local county shelter and struggled as a young active dog in the shelter environment without appropriate outlets for his exercise and enrichment needs. With all this pent-up energy and excitement towards handlers coming to take him for a walk, behavior would manifest as jumping and mouthing at loose clothing, leashes, and treat pouches. While attempting to grab these items, Ace has accidentally scraped/nipped at his handler's body, resulting in broken skin and bruises.

Bringing Ace into the Behavior Modification program has allowed us to work with Ace to expand his skills such as impulse control, like sitting and waiting at doorways and prior to greeting new people. With guidance from his handlers and giving Ace new behaviors to practice in place of the excited jumping, Ace has made great progress! He'll do best in a home with adopters that are willing and able to continue working with him to further expand upon his skill set and help him grow into a polite young man. Due to his mouthy and jumpy behavior, Ace will also need a home without young children, as his exuberance and zest for life can easily overwhelm younger kids.

During his time in the shelter, we've introduced Ace to multiple other dogs to gauge his interest in playing with other dogs. While Ace is excited to meet other dogs, he can come on strong and rowdy, which can easily overwhelm less social or confident dogs. Situations with uncontrolled dog social situations, like dog parks or doggy daycares, may not be the best fit for Ace. Playdates with known appropriate dogs in backyards or Sniffspots would be a better fit and allow him to continue to have positive social interactions with other dogs.

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

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

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

Ace needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Ace 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.

Work on having Ace 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 Ace 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.

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 Ace 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 Ace 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. Ace 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 is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Ace 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.

Behavioral Medication for your new dog

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during their time in the shelter. You may be provided with a supply of this dog’s medication(s) along with specific dosing instructions at the time of adoption. We would recommend that you continue giving this medication for at least the first 6 months after adoption to help reduce stress that may be associated with this dog making a smooth transition into your home. In order to avoid any adverse side effects (including behavioral and systemic) please do not abruptly stop administering these medications or discontinue use without consulting your veterinarian. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate protocol to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a gradual weaning off process. Please do not substitute other supplements or medications (including your own prescriptions) without consulting a veterinary professional.

During this process, please watch for any signs of worsening fear or anxiety. If the dog appears to be getting worse during the weaning off process, contact your veterinarian as longer treatment or a different combination of medications may be needed. Remember that successful behavioral rehabilitation often relies on a combination of pharmaceutical therapy as well as various training modalities.

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