



Waxillium 123456: What to Expect

Waxillium is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Waxillium (or Wax) is a goofy and loveable adolescent with a lot of happiness in his heart! Wax loves to play with toys, gets the silliest puppy zoomies in the yard, often jumping in & out of the pool along the way, and is easily motivated to learn new things. He would likely enjoy joining his new family on adventures, everything from walks and hikes to beach & river trips. Wax's enthusiasm for life can cause him to jump up onto his handlers, and if overstimulated more, he may grab onto loose fitting clothing, bags/purses, or the leash with his mouth. During his time at Oregon Humane we've been successful teaching Wax to sit and wait for leashing and before throwing toys in the yard. Wax will do best in a home with patient owners, without small children, who can continue his training using the same positive reinforcement-based techniques we've found successful here at Oregon Humane. **Take a training class.** Waxillium 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 Waxillium's time at Oregon Humane, we have introduced him to a variety of dogs and seen that while he wants to play, his overexuberance can be overwhelming for other dogs. Wax's excitement for play can cause him to pull on leash and rush into the interaction. Allowing Wax to greet in this heightened state, will only reinforce that when he pulls or barks, he gets to say hello. Instead, we've been successful teaching Wax to sit and wait calmly on leash before greeting people or other dogs. Other young, exuberant, and rowdy dogs may be a better match for his rambunctious playstyle, but shy, nervous, or senior dogs will likely find him overwhelming. Because of this, Wax is not a candidate for uncontrolled settings like doggie daycares or dog parks. Instead, he would be better suited for one-on-one play dates with known dogs in a fenced backyard on SniffSpot. Wax could live with another playful dog in his home, but he may also enjoy soaking up all the human love and attention for himself. He will need to meet any potential canine companions before adoption to ensure the dogs are a compatible match.

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

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

Waxillium needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Waxillium 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 Waxillium 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 Waxillium 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 Waxillium 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 Waxillium 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 Waxillium 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. Waxillium 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.

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