



Ike: What to Expect

Ike is a sweet boy but he is worried about new people, new situations and busy environments. He needs a quiet home with a fully-fenced yard, and a patient, calm person who understands and can live with his fearful nature. He would not do well in a busy apartment complex, a home with a lot of hustle and bustle, or one with children.

Ike will do best in a home with a calm, confident dog (or dogs!). He loves spending time with other dogs and going to a home with a dog of similar size will help him open up and build his confidence.

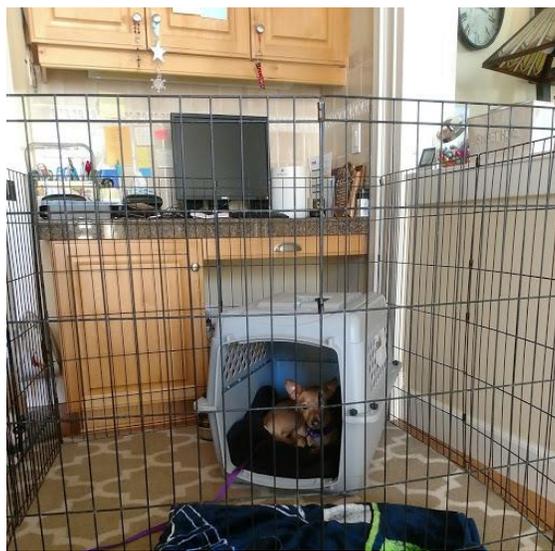
Once he gets to know you, you'll see that Ike is fun-loving and enthusiastic. He has a lot of energy and is amazingly athletic! He loves to run and play but it will take time for him to feel comfortable enough to do this around you.

We're not sure what Ike's life was like before he arrived at OHS. He may not have had much experience with strangers, children, dog parks, the sights and sounds of traffic, or riding in an automobile. We expect him to be overwhelmed by everything he encounters at first. During the critical first months, his 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 the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

A lot of small dogs tend to struggle with potty training and Ike is no different. Keeping him on a schedule will help him be successful –but be prepared for accidents, especially as he gets used to his new home.

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

- **Let him drag a leash attached to a harness** for a couple of weeks or longer. It will take time for him to get comfortable with you and even MORE time before he will be okay with you removing/replacing his leash and harness. Until he is comfortable with you and his new home, **he may try to dart out a door or climb a fence**. We do not recommend leaving him unsupervised outside.
- **Designate a "safe spot" in your home.** You can use an exercise pen to confine him to a smaller area where he has access to water, bed and toys (see picture). If you're unable to supervise him, he should be confined to the x-pen area.
- **Continue crate training.** Ike is very comfortable in his crate at OHS and it will be in your best interest to continue practicing crate training with him. You can start by feeding his meals in the crate and work your way up from there.
- **Use treats to build trust.** Always let him be the one to decide if he wants to come closer to you and don't force interactions. As he grows more comfortable, you can pair treats with petting and begin handling his harness and



Example of a "safe spot" in his new home.

leash. **Limit introductions to new people.** Take your time to get to know Ike before introducing him to someone new. He will need to meet a person multiple times before he will feel comfortable with them.

- **No dog parks!** Playing in controlled settings - like play dates at home with dogs you know - will work better. It is best to go slow with his introductions to other dogs. Don't try introducing him to strange dogs on a walk - he could easily get away from you and would be **very hard to catch**.
- **If you're having people over, put Ike in another room.** Leave him with a stuffed Kong, his favorite bed and some calm music to help drown out the commotion. He will slowly relax and not have to worry about interacting with all of the strangers. If given free roam, he may bark as people enter your home or run out the front door. Make sure he is feeling comfortable in your home and with you before you introduce him to friends or family.
- **Don't take him to busy places** where he will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as Saturday Market, popular hiking trails, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., etc.).
- **Be his advocate.** It's okay to ask someone to stop, or prevent a person from coming up to say hi to your dog. Watch his body language and help him out of situations if he appears stressed.
- Try using **Adaptil (Dog Appeasing Pheromone)** or **Rescue Remedy by Bach Flower Essences**. These products can help dogs settle in new environments by easing the stress associated with change.
- **Visiting the vet:** Unless it's an emergency, give Ike plenty of time to bond to you before taking him to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary for him but if he already trusts you, your presence may help him feel more comfortable.
- **Patience will come in handy for you.** Ike is a sensitive dog who responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. He needs an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping him learn to live in a home. He will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

We're here to help!

We want Ike to be successful in your home. Please call our help-line at 503-416-2983 with any questions you may have about Ike and helping him to settle into your home.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you now and in the future. Reach out if you have any 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!