



## Max: What to Expect

**Max is a handsome boy that needs a special home.** Max is very sweet but he is sensitive and nervous about new situations. He needs a home with a patient, calm person who understands and can live with his sensitive nature. Max enjoys being with his people and taking things slow- he takes time to warm up to new people and bonds closely with people that he already knows.

Max needs a quiet home and environment with a securely fenced yard. He may struggle in a busy apartment complex, a home with lots of hustle and bustle, or a home with very young children. Max is sensitive to noises and fast movements. New situations will be overwhelming to him at first and he's not going to want to go everywhere with you. As you begin to introduce Max to new things, go slowly (one thing at a time) and make sure he's having a positive experience.

Max was surrendered to OHS due to not getting along with the 2-year-old child in home who overwhelmed Max, resulting in Max snapping at the child when the child did not listen to Max's signals when the child was being overwhelming. Max has positive interactions with the teenager in the home.

Max has been going out for walks everyday with staff at OHS. Initially he would be worried about returning inside the building or going to a new place but he's getting more comfortable each day. He has been going potty on leash when he gets outside. Keeping him on a schedule will also help him be successful, but be prepared for accidents, especially as he settles into his new routine.

Max is cautious of other dogs. While he's met multiple dogs while on his walks at OHS, he prefers to avoid other dogs and move away from them. Max has had a rough start in life. In one previous home that Max lived in, the other large dog overwhelmed Max and since then, Max has had limited interactions with other dogs.

### **Here's how to help Max settle in during your first months together:**

**Let him drag his leash inside** (attached to his harness) for two weeks or longer. It will take Max time to get comfortable with you and even MORE time before he will be okay with you removing/replacing his leash, harness and collar. He hasn't chewed on his leash or harness at OHS, so it should be okay to leave these items on.

**Avoid taking Max out for walks outside of the home and yard at first.** Give him several weeks to settle into his new home and yard first before walking Max out around the neighborhood. Cars, bicyclists, and other novel things are likely to be scary for Max. Never leave Max tethered outside. He may panic and hurt himself while attempting to escape if something startles him.

**Use treats and play time to build trust.** Once Max is your friend, he will start to become comfortable with being petted and taking treats. He likes to follow his people and lounge out in the yard. Max thrives with being on a routine. Build a predictable schedule for Max so he can become comfortable with you and in his home.

**No dog parks!** Don't take him to busy places where he will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, etc.).

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Max in another room.** If you'd like Max to meet a guest, put him on a leash and give him time to adjust before allowing your guest to pet him. Let it be Max's choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding him or forcing him to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

**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.

**Visiting the vet:** Unless it's an emergency, give Max time to bond to you before taking him to the 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 will help him feel more comfortable.

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.

**Patience will come in handy for you.** Max is a sensitive dog who needs an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on training with him. He will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

## **We're here to help!**

We want Max to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. Contact our **Behavior Help-Line directly at (503) 416-2983**. One-on-One training consultations are also available.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you and Max 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!