



Jasper: What to Expect

Jasper is a smart, sweet boy looking for his forever home. His best friends describe him as goofy, happy, playful and communicative, and everyone says his beaming smile is very contagious. Jasper is looking for an adult-only home, or one with older, dog-savvy children who can handle his sometimes-rambunctious play. Although he has lived with dogs in the past, Jasper can be picky about his furry friends, so a pet meet is required if there are resident dogs in the home. And while Jasper loves people, it can sometimes take some time before he learns to trust them; slow, positive introductions to strangers will be important for helping Jasper succeed in the home. Whoever brings Jasper home will see what all his friends already know: that he is a wonderful companion, and will add joy to any room he is in!

Here's how to help Jasper during your first months together:

Use treats to build trust and establish a connection. Jasper loves treats and is motivated by food. He will excel with a structured schedule where he knows what to expect. Using treats is a great way to get him on the same page as you, and will help with any reactivity on leash.

Give him ample time to settle into your home. Jasper will thrive with a predictable daily schedule to help him acclimate to your house. Take your time to get to know him (and for him to get to know you) before introducing him to someone new or taking him new places.

Be ready for walks with Jasper. Our vets have found Jasper to have delayed conscious proprioception (CPs) in both front paws – this is the result of an unknown condition that causes him to sometimes drag his feet on the ground while he walks. To prevent him hurting his feet on rough sidewalks, pavement or other hard surfaces, he currently walks with little booties that protect his feet. Jasper also walks on a harness, and may try to pull if you let him. Continued training for walking nicely on a leash will be beneficial for Jasper and his new parents – inquire about training classes at OHS if you would like some assistance!

No dog parks! That would be way too much for Jasper. Don't try introducing him to strange dogs on a walk either - he could easily panic, become defensively aggressive and even get away from you and be very hard to catch.

Be his advocate. It's okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a person or other dog from coming up to say hi to your dog. Watch Jasper's body language and help him out of situations if he appears stressed, otherwise you will overwhelm him and make him act worse by accident.

Try using **Adaptil (Dog Appeasing Pheromone)** and **Rescue Remedy by Bach Flower Essences**. These products can help dogs settle in new environments by easing the stress associated with change.

Go slow with introductions: Jasper is very sweet and affectionate with the people he trusts, but he can be wary of strangers, especially when they come into the home. It may be easier to introduce new people to Jasper outside, in a neutral area. Use treats and toys to keep things positive, and don't force him into a situation he's not comfortable in. When you are welcoming visitors to the home who don't need to interact with Jasper, feel free to close him off in another room or in his crate so he can stay calm while strangers are over.

Visiting the vet: Jasper has seen the vets at OHS has done really well with familiar veterinarians, but may become fearful or reactive with new veterinarians or vet staff. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits may 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. Jasper is a big, goofy boy with a lot of love to give, but it may take time to get in a routine that everyone is comfortable with. Remember that it can take a dog weeks to adjust to a new environment and schedule; give him the time he needs to get comfortable before planning anything big for him. Once you start to build up a relationship, you will get a feel for what Jasper's boundaries and comfort levels are, and be more prepared to start opening up his world.

We're here to help!

We want Jasper 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 Jasper 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!