



## Pandora: What to Expect

Pandora is a fun loving, affectionate dog who loves to play and learn. She needs to find someone who has patience and who can continue working with her using the same positive reinforcement training methods we have used here at OHS. Pandora has a very strong chase drive towards other animals. Birds are especially high on her list and she has scaled 6' fences to chase after them. We are looking for a home where she can get lots of walks or better yet runs (always on leash) to burn off her energy. She also would benefit from someone wishing to do training to teach her to be calmer and to trust you. This home would be best if it were in a quiet place, with enough space so that you don't bump into other people with dogs as Pandora would really struggle and be reactive in those tight spaces.

Pandora responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training methods. We have found that she really enjoys playing with a squeaky toys and tennis balls. Any negative or forceful treatment will likely cause her to become fearful or intimidated and will ultimately be counterproductive for both of you.

### **Here's how to help Pandora during your first months together:**

**Develop a predictable daily schedule** to help her acclimate to your house. Take your time to get to know her before introducing her to someone new.

**Play time in your back yard:** If you have a yard, Pandora really enjoys chasing a ball. Play time outside must be supervised and Pandora needs to be on a long leash, as she has jumped fences to chase after birds or other critters including cats and dogs. Inside, you can have her play with soft toys and puzzle toys for mental stimulation.

If you don't have a yard, then daily walks or better yet, runs would be great for her.

**Continue her training.** Practice "Leave It." Pandora has a history of reactivity when seeing other animals and has a strong desire to chase small animals, especially birds. If she sees another dog or a small animal, say "leave it" in an upbeat tone and immediately reward her with a treat for stopping and looking at you. Again, playing fetch before going on a walk will help reduce reactivity on leash. It is best to keep a distance from other animals on walks so she feels calmer.

**Are you a runner?** Pandora has been going on runs with our volunteers on the Running Team and she seems to respond well to it. Pandora is successfully running up to 4 miles. She may still react to other animals if she sees them, but she is easier to redirect to stay focused on the run.

**Use a head halter or harness for walks.** Using a walking tool with her will make life easier for you. Be sure to bring her favorite high-value treats with you so you can help her remain calm and not pull on her walks. It will also be in your best interest to play a game of fetch or give her a puzzle toy **before** you take Pandora on a walk. This will help reduce her energy level so she can stay focused during the walk.

**No dog parks!** Pandora does not seem to enjoy being around other dogs. Don't take her to places where she will have uncontrolled interactions with other dogs as she might instigate a fight.

**Feed her separately.** In the beginning, (first few weeks) feed her in an area where she can eat undisturbed. Do not allow people to take items from her. If at any point, she growls or bears her teeth, stop what you are doing and back off a bit. Remember to avoid pushing her or using a confrontational approach. After a few weeks, she should be feeling more relaxed and realize that food is coming daily. Now, if you like, you could start training - using an approach that builds her trust and comfort with you around items of value to her. Make sure you don't leave anything on counters or tables as you know she can jump up if tempted to do so.

**Be her advocate.** It's okay to ask someone to stop, or prevent a person from coming up to say hi to your new dog. Watch her body language and help her out of situations if she appears stressed or if she is starting to get really amped up.

**Patience will come in handy for you.** Pandora is a dog who needs a patient, **calm** owner who has the time and desire to work with her. She will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

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.

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

We want Pandora to be successful in her home. Call our free Pet Behavior Helpline at (503)416-2983 or book a one-on-one training consultation at [oregonhumane.org/training](https://oregonhumane.org/training). Enter the promo code **ADOPT** to receive 10% off a single training consultation.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you and Pandora now and in the future. Please 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!