



Xandra - What to Expect – Adopt Out from Foster

Xandra has come to the Oregon Humane Society with a group of other cattle dogs as part of an investigation into a case of animal abuse and neglect. She has worked with our Training and Behavior team and has been in a foster home. She is a sweet dog but is extremely worried about anything unfamiliar to her. Because of her unique circumstances, we are providing you with this more detailed explanation of her special needs and certain risks.

Katie needs a quiet, adult only, routine-focused home with a secure, fully fenced yard and a patient, calm person who understands and accepts a fearful-natured dog. she gets to know you, you'll see that Xandra has a sweet personality, she loves butt scratches and belly rubs. She loves to run and play in the backyard while you are outside, but it will take time for her to feel comfortable enough to do this around you. She does not like to be in the back yard alone. There will be things that will cause her concern that are normal to us. She needs a **calm, quiet, predictable home**.

Xandra likes spending time with other neutral dogs and going to a home with a “helper” dog will really bring out the best in her and make her feel much more comfortable. She may not want to engage with your dog in play, but your dog will help her build a relationship with you.

Important Details:

___ **Flight risk:** Please remember that Xandra was a part of an investigations case and has not had experiences with strangers, children, dog parks, the sights and sounds of traffic, or riding in an automobile. We expect her to be overwhelmed by everything new she encounters. Her safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought, because **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 and keep to your home and back yard until Xandra is truly ready.** When riding in a car, she must ride in a secure crate with a drag line.

___ **No Children:** She is likely to snap or bite as a response to feeling overstimulated by new experiences that are completely foreign to her (especially if she feels cornered) or pushed beyond her comfort level. Children often invoke a bite response as they are at eye level, like to get too close, are less able to read stress signals and just in their day to day behaviors can trigger fearful responses in dogs. She also has very strong herding instincts which include chasing, lunging and biting. **Xandra cannot be allowed near children**

___ **Bite Risk:** She also may snap or bite as a response to feeling overstimulated by new experiences that are completely foreign to her especially if she feels cornered or pushed beyond her comfort level. She also has very strong herding instincts which include chasing, lunging and biting.

___ **Potty Training:** Xandra has been going potty on leash at OHS, but it may take time before she is comfortable enough to potty on leash with you. Initially, designating a safe, dog-proof room would be best. Develop a consistent, predictable routine will help too – but be prepared for accidents, especially as she settles in.

___ **Resource Guarding:** Before coming to OHS, Xandra was living in crowded conditions, so food was a highly valuable resource. Dogs will need to be given food in their own separate locations. Do not give long lasting, high value food treats such as rawhides, raw bones, etc. as she may try to hide them and protect the special hiding place.

How to help Xandra be successful in her new home:

___ **Designate a “safe spot” in your home.** If you don't have a spare room you can dog-proof, use an exercise pen to confine Xandra to a smaller area with water, bed and toys (see picture). If you're unable to supervise, Xandra should be confined to the x-pen area.



Example of a “safe spot” in a new home.

___ **Let her drag a leash (at all times) attached to her harness** until you're able to touch her. This could take a while. Please don't leave her unattended while dragging the leash, out her in a crate when no one is home.

___ **Use treats and play time to build trust.** Always let Xandra be the one to decide if she wants to come closer to you and don't force interactions. As she grows more comfortable, you can pair treats with petting and begin handling the collar and leash. If you have multiple animals, be mindful of resource guarding.

___ **Practice leash walking:** In the beginning, for her sake, you won't be taking Xandra for walks in your neighborhood. Practice leash walking in your securely fenced backyard for a week or two before attempting a quiet walk up and down your street. **Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

___ **Xandra is crate trained**, so please use the crate to prevent her from being destructive or going potty in the house.

___ **Limit introductions to new people.** If you're having anyone over, **put Xandra in her safe spot.** Leave her with a stuffed Kong, a favorite toy, and some calm music to mask strange voices. If given free roam, she will get overwhelmed and either bark, nip or bolt out the door! **Remember she needs a calm, quiet and predictable home.**

___ **No dog parks or Busy places!** Xandra **needs a quiet place with few people and no commotion.** Time in your secure backyard and quiet, short walks are enough to begin with.

___ **Supervise play sessions.** If you have another dog or arrange a play date with another dog, have her drag a leash. When you need to slow the dogs down or interrupt inappropriate play, step on the leash and say, "Okay, let's go." Separate the two dogs to calm down. Do not let them have high value treats or toys to fight over.

___ **Visiting the vet:** Unless it's an emergency, give Xandra time to bond to you before taking her to the vet. Taking your current, more confident dog with you may help her feel less stressed.

___ **Patience & Positive Reinforcement.** Xandra needs an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on teaching her how to live in a home. Using the positive reinforcement techniques she has learned at the shelter will help her form a strong bond with you. There is no need to resort to any form of punishment. Contact us for help.

___ **Herding Breed Info Sheet.** See attached

We're here to help!

We want Xandra to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Xandra, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Lori at (503) 802-6713 or lorik@oregonhumane.org.

I have read and understand the needs/requirements of this animal. I have been adequately informed and offered an opportunity for follow up questions. I am aware of the aforementioned behavior risks of adopting this animal and I am aware that the actions of animals are often unpredictable; that an animal's behavior may change after it leaves the shelter and adjusts to a home; and the Oregon Humane Society makes no claims or representations as to temperament, health, or mental disposition of any animal adopted.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

