



Clarice 294830: What to Expect

Clarice is a sweet girl who loves people and is looking for a home where the people are home most of the time. She does best when she can stick to a routine and a predictable schedule. A house with a fully fenced yard in a very quiet area would be Clarice's dream - NOT an apartment, or a home with lots of hustle and bustle.

Clarice may panic and cry loudly when she is left alone – and possibly become destructive. We have been working on her home alone issues at OHS. She originally came to OHS through the Second Chance Program from Multnomah County Animal Services, as a stray. We have limited information about Clarice's history prior to her arrival. Clarice was adopted for three days before returning due to destructive behavior observed in the apartment including breaking through a pantry door and knocking over food. She has also been prescribed a behavior medication to help with the anxiety. Keeping her on this medication will help her continue to do well.

Clarice is an active girl and would thrive in a home with someone who can keep her active, both mentally and physically. She is working on not pulling on leash when she's out on walks especially she sees other dogs or small animals such as squirrels. Clarice responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training methods. This can include treats, squeaky toys or tennis balls, depending on which she responds to best in your home. Anything negative or forceful causes her arousal or excitement level to increase and will ultimately be counterproductive for both of you. Calm time outs in a soothing spot will help her calm down.

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

Practice crate training. Start by feeding meals in a wire crate and work your way up from there. It will be in your best interest to **slowly** increase time in the crate, so they view it as a safe, comfortable spot. When you cannot monitor your dog in the home, allow them some time to settle and relax in the crate.

Use routine to get Clarice comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Clarice to feel comfortable in their new home and with you. Having a predictable schedule will help them adjust to their new home.

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Clarice's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Clarice has with their owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations.

Patience will come in handy for you. Clarice responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. They will need an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping them learn to live in a home. Clarice will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

Clarice needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Clarice loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and chase a flirt pole. Giving your dog a healthy outlet for some of their energy will help them settle during calm hours at home.

Work on having Clarice settle on a mat and gently praise them for lying down. If they get up to pace, call them back and use a treat to lure them into a down again. If Clarice is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do this.

“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Clarice on leash, attached to you or tethered to a large piece of furniture as you go about your daily routine. This will help with potty training, bonding, and creating boundaries within the home. Let Clarice drag the leash around the house or yard from time to time to simulate “freedom”, but do not let them off leash until they can 100% be trusted not to get into things they shouldn’t. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate Clarice when you cannot watch them. This will ensure their puppy curiosity doesn’t get them into any trouble. You will have long lasting success if you follow this method.

Take a training class. Clarice would benefit from taking some training classes with their new owners and would love to learn more alongside their family in a training class. Training classes help strengthen the bond between owner and dog by creating clear and precise communication so there are no misunderstandings. You can find more info about our training classes on our website at (<https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/training-at-ohs/>).

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Clarice does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new being well. The vet can still be a scary place. Bringing tasty treats like cheese and/or hot dogs can help make the experience more pleasant.

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

We’re here to help!

We want Clarice to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Clarice, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-7722** or fill out a questionnaire online.

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

Behavioral Medication for your new dog

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during their time in the shelter. You may be provided with a supply of this dog’s medication(s) along with specific dosing instructions at the time of adoption. We would recommend that you continue giving this medication for at least the first 6 months after adoption to help reduce stress that may be associated with this dog making a smooth transition into your home. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate weaning off protocol and to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a weaning off process.

During this process, please watch for any signs of worsening fear or anxiety. If the dog appears to be getting worse during the weaning off process, contact your veterinarian as longer treatment may be needed.