



## Dwayne Johnson - What to Expect

Dwayne Johnson is a really lovely dog who is very friendly, likes other dogs and older kids and loves to cuddle. However, he came to the Oregon Humane Society needing **emergency surgery** as he has a history of eating rocks! Because of his unique circumstances, we are providing you with this more detailed explanation of his special needs and certain risks and how best to help him be successful.

Dwayne Johnson needs a quiet, adult only, routine-focused home with a person who understands and accepts that they need to monitor him carefully. He is already crate trained and is totally fine wearing a basket muzzle when out, to prevent him from being able to swallow rocks that he may come across. He is very friendly and playful, friendly with visitors, active, talkative (for your attention) and knows how to sit, lie down and leave it (a very important thing to continue to reinforce!). He needs a **calm, quiet, predictable home with not many people coming and going. He could be fine living in an apartment or house as long as if there is a yard, it is free of small, swallowable stones!**

Dwayne Johnson has made progress with the help of a behavior medication (see Behavior Medication information below). Keeping him on this medication will help him transition to your home and continue to do well.

### Important Details:

The reason we are suggesting not placing Dwayne Johnson into a home with children or one where children visit often, is because of him possibly swallowing small toys and it's just a bit more challenging to monitor both kids and dogs. With his health and safety at risk, we're just being as responsible as possible for his sake.

### How to help Dwayne Johnson be successful in his new home:

**Designate a "safe spot" in your home.** If you don't have a spare room, you can dog-proof, you can use a very large crate, to confine Dwayne Johnson to a smaller area where he can have access to appropriate food items and water. If you're unable to supervise, he should be confined to his crate.

**Let him drag a leash (at all times) attached to the collar** until you get to know him better and unless he is safely in his crate. That way, you can pick up the leash to lead him away easily and calmly from anything he shouldn't have access to.

**Use treats and play time to teach Bo new things.** If you have multiple animals, be mindful of resource guarding.

**Dwayne Johnson is crate trained**, so please use the crate as a safe place and to prevent him from chewing/ingesting things he shouldn't.

**No off leash time! Dwayne Johnson loves to go on walks and he is good on a leash. Walk him wearing his basket muzzle, so he can sniff to his hearts content, but not eat rocks!**

**Supervise play sessions.** If you have another dog or arrange a play date with another dog, have Dwayne Johnson 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 Dwayne Johnson time to bond to you before taking him to the vet so you can provide support for him. He has unfortunately been at the vet a lot for his rock eating issues, so can be understandably sensitive around his incision site. It's important to go slow and help make routine visits fun and not painful or scary and to build a good relationship with your veterinarian and their team.

**Patience & Positive Reinforcement.** Dwayne Johnson needs an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on teaching him to be calm and to keep working on "Leave it" and in the unfortunate case that he picks up something he shouldn't "drop it". Using the positive reinforcement techniques, he has learned at the shelter will help him form a strong bond with you. There is no need to resort to any form of punishment as this will add to the anxiety and need to swallow things. Please contact us for help.

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

We want Dwayne Johnson to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone at 503-802-6729 and [emailOHSTrainers@oregonhumane.org](mailto:emailOHSTrainers@oregonhumane.org)  
For more information on group classes and one-on-one private consultations go to <https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/>

### **Behavioral Medication for your New Dog**

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety 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 recommend that you continue giving this medication for **at least** the first 3-4 weeks after adoption to help reduce stress that may be associated with this dog making a smooth transition into your home. It is difficult to predict whether or not this dog will benefit from treatment over an even longer period of time – this is something that we ask you to discuss with this dog's new veterinarian when you take them in for an exam.

If you wish to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for advice and 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 behaviors. If the dog appears to be getting worse during the weaning off process, contact your veterinarian as longer treatment may be needed.

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