



Cheesecake 300733: What to Expect

Cheesecake is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Cheesecake is a sweet and affectionate little dog who enjoys the company of her human and canine companions with lap cuddles, walks, and playful romps. Cheesecake came to us on a Second Chance transfer from California, so her history is a mystery to us. During her time at OHS we've gotten to know Cheesecake really well and found that when she's comfortable she will crawl into your lap for a nap, curiously take walks in new places, and meets other dogs well. When Cheesecake first arrived, she was very overwhelmed and frightened, and she displayed her discomfort through appropriate dog language, with growling, avoidant of handling, and refusing to walk on a leash. If she was pushed further for interaction or someone attempted to pick her up, she would bark and snap at their hands. We moved Cheesecake into our Behavior Modification Program where she could have a calmer environment and consistency with handlers. Once Cheesecake was comfortable, she allowed all handling, grooming, picking up, and examinations. It will be important for Cheesecake's new family to advocate for her space. She is very small and while she can be confident in meeting new people, guests and strangers should never attempt picking up Cheesecake until she feels absolutely comfortable. Advocating for her autonomy will increase her bond with her new owner's and increase her confidence in strangers overall.

Upon further exam it was determined that she had advanced dental disease and needed to have multiple teeth removed. This paired with a moderate overbite, Cheesecake's tongue will always stick out of her mouth, and it will be her new family's responsibility to keep up with her dental care with frequent checkups, appropriate food and chews, and potentially more tooth extractions. We've not seen her overbite or tooth removal affect her eating habits or desire for delicious treats.

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

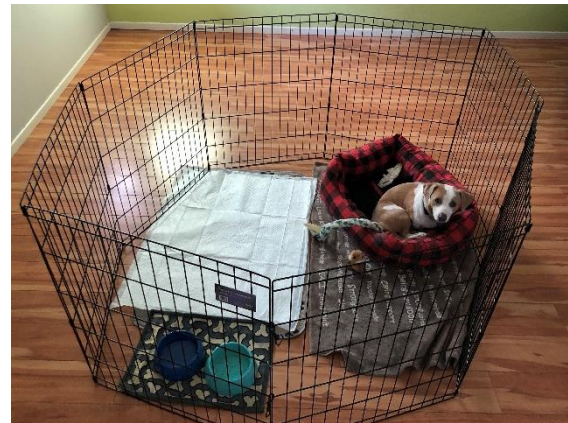
Use an exercise pen to confine Cheesecake to a small area when you are not home or able to supervise them (see picture). Give them a bed, water, favorite toy, and a potty pad. This "safe spot" will also be a great place to put them when you have visitors to your home, so they don't have to worry about interacting with everyone if they're not comfortable.

Patience will come in handy for you. Cheesecake 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. Cheesecake will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

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

Take Cheesecake outside on leash. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Cheesecake out alone. They are so small, that they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Cheesecake does like to go for walks and go outside to potty but needs some time to figure out the routine before being trusted off leash.

Be your dog's advocate. It's okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a person from letting their dog come up to say hi to your dog. Watch their body language and help your dog out of situations if they appear stressed. Explain that Cheesecake is not comfortable with strange people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Ignoring a dog is the fastest and best way to help them be comfortable around new people.



Cheesecake's "safe spot" when no one is home.

Don't take Cheesecake to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., Home Depot, etc.).

Visiting the Vet: Unless it's an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary, but if your dog already trusts you, your presence may help them feel more comfortable.

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

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!