



Magnolia 300284: What to Expect

Magnolia is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Magnolia is an incredibly sweet puppy who is motivated to learn new things! She enjoys the company of her friends both human and canine, loves to play with toys, and would be thrilled to join you on your next adventure! Magnolia's heart is overflowing with happiness; when excited she can jump on people and if overstimulated more, may grab onto loose-fitting clothes, the leash, or bags/purses. Like most puppies, Magnolia uses her mouth to play and doesn't discriminate what she will grab on to or when, even sometimes fingers, hands, or arms. We have been successful in using positive reinforcement training techniques to help her understand what behavior is appropriate when in these heightened states, such as sitting and waiting for leashing or before throwing toys in the yard. Always having toys on hand to redirect her mouthy play onto will help her distinguish what is and isn't acceptable during play time. She will need continued training in her new home so she can continue to grow into a well-adjusted adult dog. Choosing to not actively focus on helping Magnolia grow into a well-adjusted adult dog can lead to a large dog who still acts like a puppy with jumping, mouthing/biting, and potty accidents in the home. The Oregon Humane Society offers dog training classes for puppies, adolescent dogs, and even fun trick training classes to meet all your puppy and dog behavior and training needs.

During her time at OHS, Magnolia has been learning a lot, including how to sit, wait at doors, and play appropriately with other dogs. While Magnolia does like to play with dogs, she's still a puppy, and as such needs reminders on what is and isn't appropriate and when to take breaks during play. While dogs do learn from each other it is not the responsibility of another dog to teach Magnolia when she is being overwhelming, but for her owners to make good choices in who she plays with and coaching her on when to take breaks. She is better suited for play with well socialized known dogs and would not do well in the uncontrolled and unpredictable environment of an off-leash dog park.

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

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

If you're having people over, put Magnolia on leash so they learn to not dart out the front door or jump all over people. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask Magnolia to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping four feet on the floor.

Magnolia needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Magnolia 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 Magnolia settle on a mat, dog bed, or cot 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 Magnolia 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.

Skip the dog park. Don't take Magnolia to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Taking leashed hikes to the river, playing in the backyard, or to places not frequented by many other dogs will allow for exercise, but keep Magnolia calm and engaged with you.

Practice "Leave it." Magnolia may bark and lunge if they see other dogs out on a walk. When a dog is sighted, **before** they start barking, say "leave it." When they turn to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming.

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.

“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Magnolia 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 Magnolia 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 Magnolia 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. Magnolia 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. Magnolia does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new people 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 Magnolia to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Magnolia, 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!