



Chicken Nugget 303456: What to Expect

Chicken Nugget is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Chicken Nugget is an exuberant adolescent dog who loves to bound around with endless enthusiasm, go for long sniffing walks, and curl up at your feet for attention. During his time with OHS Chicken Nugget has shown us he can be an excitable and friendly dog, albeit very big and strong. When excited Chicken Nugget can sometimes become overstimulated and direct this energy on to his handlers with jumping, mouthing, and grabbing onto loose fitting clothes, the leash, and/or bags. We've been successful teaching Chicken Nugget alternative behaviors using positive reinforcement techniques when in these emotional states. His owners should continue to practice his training using the same methods we've been successful using at OHS to further his training in his new home. His future adopters will get hands on training prior to adoption to ensure everyone's success before going home. Due to Chicken Nugget's exuberance, we believe he will do best in a home without small children he could easily knock over or steal toys/food from.

In a previous home, Chicken Nugget was known to escape the yard, wandering the neighborhood until caught and walked home. While a fenced yard is not required, it is recommended that any yard Chicken Nugget will be left unsupervised in have a secure fence at least 6ft tall and free of gaps. Adopters will also need to be prepared to stay outside in the yard with Chicken Nugget, supervising his play and potty time, for the first few weeks in home while he adjusts. When comfortable Chicken Nugget loves hanging out with his human and/or dog family, meeting new people, and playing! He would be a great companion for a family interested in an active and social dog.

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

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

If you're having people over, put Chicken Nugget 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 Chicken Nugget to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Chicken Nugget needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Chicken Nugget 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.

Don't take Chicken Nugget 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.). He needs time to bond and trust his family through training before he'll be ready for the hustle and bustle of overstimulating environments.

Work on having Chicken Nugget 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 Chicken Nugget 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.

Walk Chicken Nugget on an appropriate walking tool. We have been using a special head halter, called a transitional leash, to help guide Chicken Nugget to walk nicely on leash with little to no pulling. When Chicken Nugget sees other dogs, cats, or wildlife on walks, they become incredibly excited and then frustrated that they cannot run up to say hello and play, causing them to jump, pull, whine, and sometimes bark. It will be important to never let Chicken Nugget run up to other dogs on leash as that can reinforce their frustrations.

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 Chicken Nugget 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 Chicken Nugget 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 Chicken Nugget 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. Chicken Nugget 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. Chicken Nugget 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 Chicken Nugget to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Chicken Nugget, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-7722 ex 422** or BMODTrainers@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!