



## Maple Syrup 303162: What to Expect

**Maple Syrup is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Maple is a very sweet, albeit nervous girl. She wants nothing more than to crawl into your lap for snuggles and often seeks out affection for reassurance. Once she's comfortable, she'd love to join you on leisurely sniffy walks and casual strolls or curl up with you on the couch while you read a book or have a movie marathon. When maple is nervous or afraid, she often looks for a way to escape what scares her; whether that's darting and pulling to the end of her leash or hiding and trembling in a corner of the room. If handlers push Maple further when in these heightened fearful states, she could escalate to growling or even snapping. Maple was briefly adopted and returned due to her discomfort with the male owner in her life. She has shown to be insecure and uncomfortable with some men, preferring women and/or soft, gentle, and calm handlers. She would do best in a low traffic quiet home without children and owners who can take into consideration her sensitive nature so she can build trusting relationships with her family.

During her time at OHS, we've introduced her to a variety of dogs and while Maple enjoys playing with dogs, she does not enjoy rough or rowdy dogs. Because of this, she would not be a good fit for busy uncontrolled settings like dog parks or daycares. Scheduled play dates with known dogs in a space like a backyard would be a great way to meet dog social fun. She may benefit from living with another calm and well socialized dog, but the dog(s) will need to understand not to push or invade her space as this can easily overwhelm Maple. A pet meet is required to ensure dogs are a good fit behaviorally and socially. Maple Syrup would make a great fit for someone who walks through life calmly and curiously, rather than directly and loudly.

We expect that Maple Syrup will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping out of the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

### **Here's how to help Maple Syrup settle in during your first months together:**

**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 Maple Syrup is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming.

**Let them drag a leash attached to their collar** for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

**Allow for time to build trust.** Always let Maple Syrup decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Maple Syrup decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and following your resident dog around.

**Supervise your dog outside.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Maple Syrup out alone. They are nervous and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! They do like to go for walks and go outside to potty but need some time to build confidence to go on longer excursions in busier neighborhoods. Take this time to bond with your dog and build the relationship and trust between the two of you.

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

**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.

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

**Don't take Maple Syrup 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.

### **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. In order to avoid any adverse side effects (including behavioral and systemic) please do not abruptly stop administering these medications or discontinue use without consulting your veterinarian. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate protocol to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a gradual weaning off process. Please do not substitute other supplements or medications (including your own prescriptions) without consulting a veterinary professional.

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 or a different combination of medications may be needed. Remember that successful behavioral rehabilitation often relies on a combination of pharmaceutical therapy as well as various training modalities.

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

We want Maple Syrup to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Maple Syrup, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Annika at **(503) 285-7722 ex 422** or [BMODTrainers@oregonhumane.org](mailto: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!