



Marley 305503: What to Expect

Marley is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Marley is a super fun and active Border Collie. Typical to the breed, Marley loves to learn, is eager to please, and loves to fetch a ball! Marley was brought in as a stray, so his history is a mystery to us. But during his time at OHS we've been able to get very familiar with what he needs to be successful in his new home. During his time at OHS we've discovered that Marley is neutral around other dogs, he doesn't show overt interest, fear, or frustration with other dogs and he is a very appropriate play partner. He can get a little over excited at times with dogs and mount them but can be easily redirected with some vocal encouragement. Marley is your typical Border Collie in that he is eager to please and ready for adventure but can be a bit wary with new people. He would love an active family who will continue to bring him out on adventures and teach him new things. Marley has shown us he can sometimes be uncomfortable with new people, over handling or when crowded in a tight space with people in his face. And typical to Border Collie fashion he will create space by nipping if his cues for space are ignored. During a meeting with a new person, Marley has slinked up to a person tentatively and nipped at them, resulting in broken skin. He meets new people best when there is little pressure on him to directly interact, like playing a game of fetch, going for a walk, and offering tasty treats. New people will need to take it slow, so he feels comfortable and confident. Never pressure Marley into an interaction he's not ready for. Once you've been properly introduced, Marley is an affectionate and playful dog. He would do best in a low traffic home without a lot of hustle and bustle.

Those who are familiar with herding breeds and the Border Collie temperament will find Marley to be an absolute delight. He would succeed at multiple dog sports as he has a strong drive and is a very biddable dog. With this drive for tennis balls, also comes some frustration and we have noticed early warnings of resource guarding. We've been successful using the two-tennis ball method and training to ensure we don't overstep in grabbing a tennis ball when Marley is in the fetch zone. If a handler reaches for the tennis ball Marley in his excitement has also jumped to grab the ball at the same time. Using two tennis balls, one to throw while picking the second up, has been a great to keep Marley comfortable while still having fun.

Here's how to help Marley 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 Marley is training 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.

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Marley decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Marley decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and giving you a ball to play fetch.

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

Marley needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Marley 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 Marley 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.). It will take a few months for Marley to decompress and trust their new family before they're ready for busy adventures.

Work on having Marley 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 Marley 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.

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.

Take a training class. Marley 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'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 Marley to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Marley, 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!