



Sky 289152: What to Expect

Sky is looking for a special home. One with dog training experience using patience and positive reinforcement, and time for training and one that can provide structured exercise. He came to us after being hit by a car. He has healed, but has some mild, intermittent lameness in his front legs which means he cannot go on long hikes or go running. But there are many ways to exercise him which help with his energy and work his brain.

Sky's energy can cause him to become frustrated and use his mouth in rough play which has resulted in scraped skin. During one instance, he stole an empty pack of ribs and when approached, got anxious and overstimulated and ran forward and jumped up and nipped the person. During his time at OHS we've been successful asking him to sit and wait for leashing or before throwing toys in the yard. He will need a patient owner who doesn't rush him and can calmly continue to help him learn new things using the same positive reinforcement-based techniques we use here at OHS. Because of his excitement and rough play, Sky is not a match for a home with cats or small children. We believe Sky could do well living with another dog of similar playstyle, but he may be too much for small, geriatric, or "chill" dogs. A pet meet at OHS would ensure dogs are a good match in personality and behavior.

Sky will thrive in a structured, calm environment with dog experienced owners who can anticipate his enrichment and training needs.

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

If you're having people over, put Sky on leash so they learn to not dart out the front door or jump all over people.

Ensure your guests ask Sky to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor and use the leash to walk him away if he overstimulates. Only reward calm, relaxed behaviors.

Patience will come in handy for you. Sky responds best to calm energy and positive reinforcement training. He is an adolescent dog so will need calm repetition to learn to relax and to control his impulses.

Sky needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Sky can go for walks and play in your yard. You can also use brain games to help tire him out too.

Skip the dog park. Don't take Sky 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 walks, playing in the backyard, or to places not frequented by many other dogs will allow for controlled exercise, but keep Sky calm and engaged with you.

Work on having Sky settle on a mat, dog bed, or cot and gently praise him for lying down. If he gets, call him back and use a treat to lure him into a down again. If Sky is on leash, you can hold hold the leash with approximately 4 feet of length and wait until he offers a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat whenever he does 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. 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/>

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 Sky to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Sky, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 502-6729** or OHSTrainers@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!