



Stubb's 309234: What to Expect

Stubb's is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Stubb's is a special rescue dog who was previously living on some property in the Dalles. He ran loose around a property with 20+ other dogs, many his relatives, creating tunnel systems in the dirt, and being overseen by one owner. He and his siblings were brought into OHS after the danger of a fire put their lives at risk. When Stubb's arrived at the shelter, he was very fearful and afraid of people, only coming out of his shell when other dogs were around. We were able to move him into a quieter space with dedicated staff and consistent training, where he was finally comfortable enough to come out of his shell and show us his true personality.

Stubb's can be an active little guy! It takes him time to warm up to new people and new places but once he does, he loves chasing tennis balls, playing with his dog friends, and going for quiet walks! Before coming to OHS, Stubb's had never walked on a leash, and is still conquering new environments while on leash like walking through doors, seeing strangers on a walk, and normal sights and sounds of traffic. When Stubb's is uncomfortable, he will try to get away from what scares him and will dart to the end of his leash or try to hide, in bushes or under cars. We expect that Stubb's 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!**

It takes some time of slow and patient relationship building for Stubb's to trust a new person. Once he does, he loves to play fetch, receive full body pets, and will follow you around like a little duckling. If pressured to interact before he is ready, he will resort to attempting to flee and hide and if he is pushed further in this frightened state, he could escalate to growling, snapping, or even biting. Because of this, Stubb's will do best in a home without small children who's unpredictable fast movements and loud noises could frighten him. Older children who can understand his sensitive nature will find Stubb's to be a fun companion, if allowed to interact when comfortable and never pressured. He will need patient owners who can spend the time continuing to introduce him to the great big human world, slowly, using the same positive reinforcement-based training we use here at OHS.

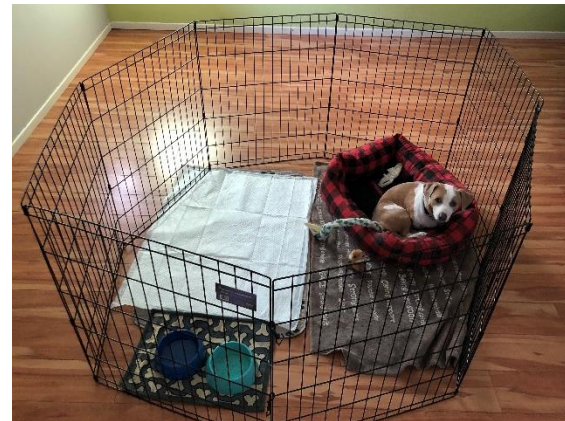
Here's how to help Stubb's settle in during your first months together:

Use an exercise pen to confine Stubb's to a small area when you are not home or able to supervise them (see picture). Give them a bed, water, favorite toy, and a potty pad. This "safe spot" will also be a great place to put them when you have visitors to your home, so they don't have to worry about interacting with everyone if they're not comfortable.

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 Stubb's is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

Don't take Stubb's 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.).

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!



Stubb's's "safe spot" when no one is home.

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Stubb's decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Stubb's 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 Stubb's out alone. They are small and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! They do like to go for short walks and go outside to potty but need some time to build confidence to go on longer excursions.

Wait to take walks. Stubb's will need time to bond with you before you start taking them for walks. Give them a couple of weeks to get to know you and their new home, then practice walking around your yard before trying a walk around the block. Stubb's will do best walking alongside a confident canine companion.

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Stubb's in another room.** If you'd like Stubb's to meet a guest, put them on a leash and give them time to adjust. Let it be Stubb's choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding Stubb's or forcing them to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

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

Patience will come in handy for you. Stubb's 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. Stubb's will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

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.

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 Stubb's to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Stubb's, 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!