



Ginger: What to Expect

Ginger is a playful dog who enjoys the company of her human friends and playing with toys.

She would do best in a home with people who love the personalities of German Shepherds and who are already familiar with or wish to learn positive reinforcement training. For such a loyal breed, it has been hard for her as she has been passed around many homes. Because of this, she will also need some adjustment time to settle in and bond with you. Ginger needs a home without dogs as she was never socialized with them and will now not do well with dogs. However, in previous homes she did live with a cat, chickens and sheep and apparently did well. (See previous owner questionnaires) but it may be best for her to live with people and not other animals, just to make things easier for everyone. She would also benefit from a 6-foot fenced in yard to play fetch in.

Ginger is *very* playful and loves to chase toys as well as throw them around entertaining herself. During her excitement in these situations, she can sometimes jump for the toy while you're holding it resulting in an accidental mouth contact. We have been successful in teaching her to sit + wait before we throw the toy. Ginger would benefit from taking some training classes with their new owners. Training classes help build a 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/>

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

Ginger needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Ginger loves to go out in quiet, low populated locations for runs, walks and she loves to play fetch in a fully fenced in yard. Giving her a healthy outlet for her energy will help her settle during calm hours at home. Also, exercising her brain with training and puzzle toys and long sniff walks is an essential part of living with a German Shepherd.

Patience will come in handy for you. Ginger responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. She will need an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping her learn to live in a home. She has done well in previous homes, but now will definitely need a few months to get used to your home and environment.

Practice "Leave it." Ginger may pull if she sees other dogs out on a walk. When a dog is sighted, **before** she starts pulling, say "leave it." When she turns to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming and treats make a positive association – win, win.

Use a head halter or Freedom Harness to walk Ginger and be pro-active on walks (see her Dogs Day Out report for more information on car rides and walking)

NO DOG PARKS. This would be way too overwhelming for Ginger, and remember, she hasn't had experience with other dogs so it would be totally unfair to subject her to uncontrolled and overstimulating situations! Also avoid really hectic places. At this point, Ginger will benefit from quiet and calm. Taking leashed hikes on quiet, spacious trails and playing in the backyard are more appropriate.

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

We're here to help!

We want Ginger to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via our **Free Behavior Help Line 503-416-5039** and are offering a free private training for Ginger at either of our locations. For questions or to schedule an appointment at the Salem Campus, contact Certified Dog Trainer Skylar Morelos at skylar.morelos@oregonhumane.org. You can also visit <https://www.oregonhumane.org/resources/> for additional resources.

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!