



Bratwurst 313672: What to Expect

Bratwurst is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Bratwurst is a super sweet, albeit sometimes nervous, German Shepherd puppy! He's a goofy, gangly, puppy who loves going for walks, getting silly puppy zoomies in the yard, and is motivated to learn new things. People who love German Shepherds or who are looking to get into the breed, would likely adore Bratwurst! Prior to coming to OHS, Bratwurst grew up in a house with his six litter mates and his parents. He was under socialized to the outside world and to other dogs, outside of his direct family. Lots of places and experiences are still new to Bratwurst and he has likely never walked on a leash before coming to OHS. He will need patient owners who can continue to introduce him to the world slowly, using the same positive reinforcement-based training we use here at OHS. With time, Bratwurst could make an excellent adventure companion, anything from hikes and runs to camping, and beach trips.

During his time at OHS, Bratwurst has been a fairly calm but curious dog. When being introduced to other unknown dogs, he has shown some nervousness with some dogs at first and other he has been excited and eager to play. He would do best meeting known dogs in the safety of a backyard or Sniff Spot rather than the uncontrolled interactions of a dog park or doggie daycare. On leash greetings can lead to reactive dogs in the future if they become too over aroused or fearful at the sight of another dog on leash, best to skip and only interact with known dogs.

Bratwurst has made great strides during his time with us! But he can still be a nervous dog, especially when encountering something new. We expect that Bratwurst will be overwhelmed by new things 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 Bratwurst 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 Bratwurst is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

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

Bratwurst needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Bratwurst 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.

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

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.

"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Bratwurst on leash, attached to you or tethered to a large piece of furniture as you go about your daily routine. This will help with potty training, bonding, and creating boundaries within the home. Let Bratwurst drag

the leash around the house or yard from time to time to simulate “freedom”, but do not let them off leash until they can 100% be trusted not to get into things they shouldn’t. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate Bratwurst when you cannot watch them. This will ensure their puppy curiosity doesn’t get them into any trouble. You will have long lasting success if you follow this method.

Take a training class. Bratwurst 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 is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Bratwurst does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new people well. The vet can still be a scary place. Bringing tasty treats like cheese and/or hot dogs can help make the experience more pleasant.

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.

We’re here to help!

We want Bratwurst to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Bratwurst, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-1145** 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!