

Tiger 314648: What to Expect

Tiger is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Tiger is a shy but playful little puppy who is looking for a home that will help her grow in a safe and patient environment. Tiger came to us with her siblings from another shelter, so her history is a mystery. She likely came from an accidental litter, and they became too old to care for, and ended up in the shelter which was very overwhelming for these shy babes. Tiger is a shy puppy who when afraid chooses to avoid, hide, and observe. She gains confidence through neutral and positive exposure and really gains confidence when another dog is around, especially one she can play with. When comfortable she will crawl into your lap, play with toys, and enjoys curious sniffy walks. It will take time for Tiger to feel confident while out in the big wide world. Advocating for her space with strangers and unknown dogs will teach her to trust her humans when faced with the unknown. Forcing her into interactions she isn't interested in will only reinforce her fear. Taking things slow and steady will provide positive long-term results. We expect that Tiger 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!**

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

Use an exercise pen to confine Tiger 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.

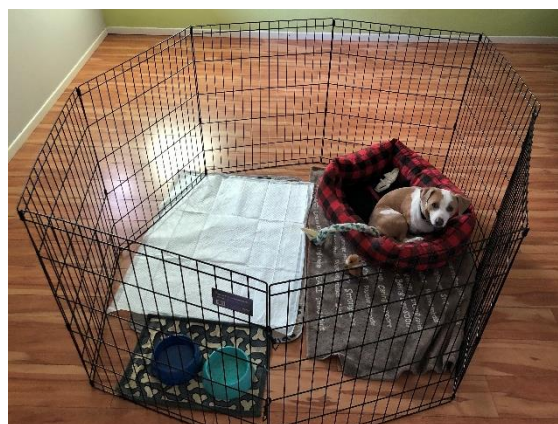
Patience will come in handy for you. Tiger responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. They will need an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping them learn to live in a home. Tiger will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

Don't take Tiger 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.).

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

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

Limit introductions to new people. Take your time to get to know Tiger before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Tiger to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Tiger at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.



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

Use routine to get Tiger comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Tiger to feel comfortable in their new home and with you. Having a predictable schedule will help them adjust to their new home.

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 Tiger is not comfortable with people 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.

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 Tiger 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 Tiger 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 Tiger 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.

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Tiger 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 Tiger to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Tiger, 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!