



## Gummy Bear 312685: What to Expect

**Gummy Bear is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Gummy is a scary looking dog with the personality of a, well, a Gummy Bear. He is incredibly sweet, soft, and loved by all who have the chance to meet him. In his previous home he successfully lived with children as young as 6, cats, and other dogs. While Gummy is a large dog, he walks nicely on the leash, loves to meet new people, and loves training for treats. Gummy bear was surrendered due to a lifestyle change and he not being able to move with the family. During his time here at OHS we've noticed he is stressed and anxious with being left alone or confined to small spaces. He really loves to be around people, looking out windows, and hanging out with other dogs. When he can't see or get to people, he does vocalize, which sounds like a small French Bulldog yodeling, and can paw, jump, and chew at doorways. Gummy listens well to redirection with vocal cues and food enrichment items. Attempts to crate Gummy have been slow. As soon as he feels confined, he attempts to door dart, paws at the door, vocalized, and has attempted to chew on the bars. Due to this fear of being confined we think he would do best in a home where someone can be home most of the time with a hybrid work schedule or one with alternating work schedules with house mates. Crate training will be a slow process and shouldn't be rushed as it could set back progress with each instance Gummy feels overwhelmed.

During his time at OHS his long whip like tail suffered from a condition called "happy tail" where the tip of their tail gets opened due to hitting nearby walls when it wags. The tail bleeds heavily even with the smallest cuts and his happiness to see us resulted in blood sprayed on walls and people. Happy Tail can be a difficult condition to heal as any time the dog wags it's tail, the wound can reopen. Our veterinary team elected to dock his tail to prevent any current and future incidence of happy tail. He is on some medication to help feel more at ease while he heals, and while being housed in the hustle and bustle of the shelter.

While Gummy is a delight to take out on walks, he is still a very strong dog and when he is determined to sniff a spot or doesn't want to come back inside, he will plant and pull to get what he wants. He could easily pull someone down if he is determined to say hi to a dog if they don't have a good grip on his leash. We have been using a special head halter, called a transitional leash, to help guide Gummy to walk nicely on leash with little to no pulling. When Gummy sees other dogs on walks, they can become excited and pull to go say hi and investigate. It will be important to never let Gummy run up to other dogs on leash as that can reinforce this pulling behavior. Use treats to reward him for looking and not pulling. Distance is calming.

### **Here's how to help Gummy Bear settle in during your first months together:**

**Gummy Bear needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Gummy Bear 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.

**Work on having Gummy Bear settle on a mat, dog bed, or cot** and gently praise them for lying down. If they get up to pace, call them back and use a treat to lure them into a down again. If Gummy Bear is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do 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.

**If you're having people over, put Gummy Bear on leash so they learn to not dart out the front door or jump all over people.** Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask Gummy Bear to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

**“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training** to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Gummy Bear 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 Gummy Bear 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 Gummy Bear 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.

**Don’t take Gummy Bear 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.).

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

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

### **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.