



## Newt 314854: What to Expect

**Newt is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Newt is a goofy dog who loves to cuddle, play with toys, and romp around with his dog friends. His happy disposition is quite literally tattooed on his skin, with a smiley face identifying his neuter status. He came to OHS through a Second Chance transfer from California, so his history is a mystery, but during his time at OHS we've been able to get to know him a bit. During his time at OHS he found the hustle and bustle of the shelter quite overwhelming and became reactive to strange new people walking past his kennel and peering inside. We were able to move him to a quieter building with dedicated professional staff who were able to set Newt up for the best success. Since moving to a quieter space, he's been able to settle in and has shown us how fun and goofy he is! We've tested Newt with multiple other dogs, and he is your typical adolescent dog, filled with playful energy, curiosity, and confident in his dog-to-dog interactions. We think Newt could live with another dog in the home or have playdates with known dog friends in secured areas like a backyard or Sniff Spot. Uncontrolled settings like the dog park might be too overwhelming for Newt as he has a bit of a sensitive nature.

Newt can at times be overwhelmed with unknown people walking past his kennel. This is typical barrier reactivity and while he has never done anything more than bark, it can be startling to folks who are unfamiliar with him. Once Newt has a chance to meet someone, treats always help, he will become their new best friend and cover them in kisses and slobber. It's important to help Newt continue to be confident and successful in meeting new people by never forcing him into a situation that he's uncomfortable with. Positive and neutral experiences will help him learn to trust his owners and gain resiliency to new situations. Due to his nervous nature we think he would do best in a low traffic quiet home away from the hustle and bustle of a busy downtown type neighborhood.

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

**Designate a "safe spot" in your home.** You can use a crate or taller baby gates to confine them to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise the dog, leave them in their safe spot. Slowly work toward leaving them alone, unsecured, once they've had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be 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. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming.

**Limit introductions to new people.** Take your time to get to know Newt before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Newt to approach as they feel comfortable will be best.

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

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

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

**If you're having people over, put Newt 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 Newt to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

**Newt needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Newt 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 Newt 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 Newt 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.

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

**Skip the dog park.** Don’t take Newt 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 Newt calm and engaged with you.

**Don’t take Newt 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.).

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