

How did you meet Jenny?

We first saw Jenny at the shelter in late-October 2014. We took her out on a walk on November 8 after taking foster parent training.

How did she behave when you first met?

When Officer Antoinette gave us the leash, Jenny looked at us and started walking. She did not pull and glanced at us on occasion. When we stopped at a park bench. We stroked her head and body. She seemed cautious, but relaxed. When we returned to the shelter, Jenny saw another dog and barked.

How much interaction have you had with Jenny?

We have been her foster parents since November 17. She spends an average of 20 hours with us per day.

What do you think are her negative characteristics?

- She is reactive to some dogs, especially if they are too close or if they stare at her or if they are excited or nervous (i.e. running behind a fence). She barks, growls, and lunges at them. There are several dogs on our floor that we need to avoid.
- She is reactive to some people and air snaps at them, sometimes making contact. She gives mixed messages by being fluffy (cute! touchable!) and sniffing people (getting close to them), but then does not like it when they reach to touch her.
- She is reactive to some categories, such as Metro buses, white trucks, firetrucks, people in uniforms (especially USPS or UPS), wheelchairs, flying insects, squirrels, and cats. She also barks at people who seem suspicious or out of place. (A man who was looking for a place to sleep near our apartment building, a transit security officer.)
- She needs to be sedated for visits to vet and for the one bath that we've given her.
- She sheds massive amounts of fur at least once a year.
- She is not very affectionate or demonstrative. It seems like she wants to be near us like greeting us when we come home, sleeping next to our feet, etc. but she mostly only gets excited about food.
- She begs at the table (sits in her cutest position and looks hungry) and has pooped on the rug three times. (Not her fault, she was sick.)

What are her positive characteristics?

- She is usually quiet and mellow and clean.
- She is not demanding of us or of our guests. (Not pushy, jumpy, etc.)
- She generally obeys when we ask her to come or sit or wait.
- She usually asks permission before doing things like sitting on the couch.
- She walks well on a leash. Even when she is reactive, she is manageable and it does not take much effort to redirect her attention.
- She lets us wipe her paws and touch her whenever/wherever we want.
- She likes car rides and has ridden the light rail several times.
- She trusts us.

Have you ever felt unsafe or scared around Jenny?

No

Has Jenny acted aggressively (growling, snapping, biting, etc.) towards you?

During the first few weeks, she air snapped at us a few times when we wiped the corner of her eyes and when we brushed her with a FURminator. She does not air snap us anymore, but does growl sometimes when we brush her near the hips, pick up her back paws, establish rules that she doesn't agree with (no picking up food off the ground) or when we give her hugs or annoy her with other unwanted physical contact.

Have you observed Jenny acted aggressively towards others?

People air snapped (sometimes with contact) inside our apartment when attempting to pet Jenny: Betty, Jamil, Dave, Michael, Emily, two of Olli's photography clients

People air snapped (sometimes with contact) inside our building when attempting to pet Jenny: Eric, Admassu, Sierra, a little girl.

People air snapped (with contact) outside our building when walking or running towards us: An elderly Asian man, a white woman in her 20s

People who are barked/growled at: See negative characteristics for categories of enemies.

Do you think Jenny is a dangerous dog?

No. Jenny is not aggressive, but fearful and wary (or protective?) around strangers. She lets people/things know that she does not want to be touched by air snapping. She never learned that she can walk away and air snapping works. She's grumpy, not mean.

Our concerns and what we can do about it

Jenny is considered dangerous and unadoptable by Seattle Animal Shelter

Get Jenny assessed by a trainer after they spend a week or more with her.

Jenny air snaps people

Ask people not to touch Jenny and to put their hands in their pockets. Put ourselves between us and Jenny when passing closely. (Overpass, trail, etc.)

Jenny is reactive (barking, growling, lunging)

Training classes such as Reactive Rover (Seattle Humane Society), Fear and Aggression (Ahimsa), Difficult Dog (Dog's Day Out)

Jenny might be in pain

Give her medication for arthritis.

Jenny does not give us much love

Accept her for who she is.

Jenny is tiring to take care of because she does not give us much in return

Share the responsibilities more equally. Ask neighbors / friends to take care of Jenny occasionally. Do more things that we all enjoy together (hiking, being in nature.) Find Jenny a home with someone who has experience with sensitive/reactive dogs.