



## Travis: What to Expect

**Travis is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home.** Travis is a sweet, playful boy once he gets to know a person, but he will be scared at first. Travis needs a quiet home with a patient, calm person. He would not do well in a home with a lot of hustle and bustle or one with children.

Travis's prior home is a bit of a mystery, but we've learned a lot about him during his stay at OHS. You'll need to introduce him to new things slowly. Travis does seem to enjoy the company of other cats and going to a home with a resident cat (or cats!) may help him come out of his shell and improve his confidence. Once he settles in, you'll see that he loves treats and toys and enjoys pets.

Travis may hide, hiss, growl, swat or even bite if you try to pet or handle him before he is comfortable. You'll need to develop a relationship with him before attempting to pet him or trying to pick him up. Use treats and play time with interactive toys (like feather toys) to help build trust. Once he knows you're his friend, he enjoys being pet on the bridge of his nose and cheek. His favorite toys are wand toys and laser lights. He also loves treats and this is a great way to befriend him.

### **Here's how to help Travis during your first months together:**

**Confine Travis to one cat-proof room in your house.** Provide Travis with a litter box, food, water, and a bed. Ensure he cannot get to *inappropriate* hiding spots (under the bed, in a closet, on top of a cabinet, etc.). Provide him with a safe, comfortable hiding place instead like his cat carrier, a hidey-bed, or a large dog crate covered with a blanket.

**Spend time with Travis in his room.** Don't force him out of his hiding spot. Instead, encourage him to come out on his own using happy talk, offering treats or toys. Once he is using the litter box, eating regularly, and coming out of hiding to interact with you, you can start introducing him to the rest of your home. Start by propping the door open and allowing him to come out on his own. Don't force it! If you come across something that you can tell Travis is worried about, allow him to hang back or hide if he chooses to do so.

**Continue to provide a safe space.** Even when Travis has started exploring the rest of the house, give him a safe space that he can retreat to. When he is in his safe space, insist that guests leave him alone and try to ignore him yourself. That way, when he comes out, you can reward his bravery with your attention.

**No visitors (at first).** Allow Travis time to adjust to your house, routine, and lifestyle before introducing him to new people. When you have visitors over, give Travis the freedom to make the decision to interact (or not!). Ask new people to ignore him – or if Travis seems curious or interested, have the new person toss him treats or offer a favorite toy. We want exciting, good things to come from new people.

**Practice crate training.** Leave his carrier out all the time, so it's just a part of his normal environment. Add a bed and keep the door securely propped open so he can go in and out on his own, making sure the door won't swing shut and frighten him. You can also clicker train him to run into the carrier on cue. Helping Travis get comfortable with his carrier will make it easier when it's time to visit the vet.

**Visiting the vet:** Unless it's an emergency, give Travis time to bond to you before taking him to the vet. Vet visits will more than likely be scary, but if he already trusts you, your presence may help him feel more comfortable.

Patience will come in handy for you. Travis is a cat that needs an understanding owner who has the time and desire to allow him to adapt in his own time. He may never be a social butterfly, and that's okay! Getting to know him and watching him come out of his shell will be extremely rewarding. Celebrate those small victories.

### **We're here to help!**

We want Travis to be successful in his new home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. Call the Behavior Helpline at (503)416-2983 or email Erika at [erikas@oregonhumane.org](mailto:erikas@oregonhumane.org) to connect with the Feline Services Manager.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you and Travis now and in the future. Please reach out if you have any 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 cat!