



Gabi 277600: What to Expect

Gabi is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home. Gabi is an active cat who enjoys being with people, but easily overstimulates when pet or handled. Gabi is blind and her new family should be mindful of giving her time to acclimate to the layout of her new home. She is a lively, bold, and spirited girl who will need a home with people that are very familiar with feline body language. She needs to find an adult-only home as well as a home where she is the only pet. She does not like to share her space or people with other animals.

Gabi is the type of cat that enjoys attention on her terms. She readily engages with people by rubbing on legs and climbing in laps. It is in these moments where she can easily become overstimulated and bite or scratch if you try to pet her. She's a cat that likes to "pet" her people and not necessarily the other way around. Gabi is not comfortable with being picked up, but you can lure her to a new space with treats, wet food, and toys if you need to move her. Even though Gabi is blind, she can sense toys and will chase and pounce on them. This is a great way to engage and interact with her.

It is very important to pay attention to her body language and **know to stop petting** her when she displays warning signals that she's done with pets. Gabi's tail will twitch, her pupils will dilate, she will head butt and knead very quickly and frequently. When she starts doing these things, you will need to stop petting her and either allow her to walk away or leave the room yourself.

Here's how to help Gabi during your first month together:

Confine Gabi to one cat-proof room in your house. Provide Gabi with a litter box, food, water, and a bed. Ensure she cannot get to *inappropriate* hiding spots (under the bed, in a closet, on top of a cabinet, etc.). Provide her with a safe, comfortable hiding place instead like her cat carrier, a hidey-bed, or a large dog crate covered with a blanket. Once she is using the litter box, eating regularly, and coming out of hiding to play with toys, you can start introducing her to the rest of your home.

Enrich her space. Gabi loves toys, scratching posts and perches with a window view. Giving her the opportunity to climb, jump, play, scratch and engage in natural cat behavior may help reduce inappropriate behaviors.

Keep a routine. A predictable daily schedule will help Gabi settle into your home. Give her time to get to know you before introducing her to new people.

Schedule interactive play sessions with her every day. Gabi needs at least 10 minutes of dedicated play in the morning and again in the evening to alleviate stress and built-up frustration. Try to mimic natural hunting behavior. Choose a fishing-pole toy and make the toy soar around the room like a bird, engaging Gabi's attention. Or simulate mouse activity by sliding the end of the toy around on the floor in quick, jerky movements. Allow her to pounce and catch the toy and bat it around. Then start again. End your play session by allowing her to capture the toy.

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

We're here to help!

We want Gabi to be successful in her 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 to connect with the Feline Services Manager.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you and Gabi 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!