



Woreo 300959: What to Expect

Woreo is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home. Woreo is an active kitty who enjoys exploring and playing with toys. He needs to find a home with a patient person who is willing to provide him with a consistent routine and daily, interactive play sessions. Woreo will need a home that can keep up with his energy level, one that can provide him with both physical and mental enrichment.

Woreo was surrendered by his previous family because they were unable to provide care for him. When he arrived, he had wounds on his body, likely from being attacked by an animal outside. While at the shelter, he exhibited conflicted behavior in his kennel. This behavior displayed itself as soliciting attention, leaning in for pets and then quickly changing to swatting and hissing. He also bit a staff member when they reached into his kennel to grab an item during the cleaning process. It was a quick bite and release and did not require medical attention. It was clear that the shelter environment was not conducive due to the conflicted behavior he was displaying so he was moved into the Behavior Modification Program. This program would allow us to learn more about Woreo and what his needs were.

Woreo acclimated very quickly to the BMOD program. The BMOD environment provides bigger kennels for each cat, their own window to look out of and multiple climbing structures for him to climb. It became clear that what Woreo needed to make him happy was more space and increased enrichment. We would give him ample opportunities to explore the space outside of his kennel every day and he would run and race around with great delight. He loves all kinds of toys, feather ones, tunnels, and anything he can pounce on. When he is in an exuberant state of play, we understood that he can overstimulate quickly, so we limit any petting during this time. When a cat is overstimulated, they have a higher probability of biting and we wanted to prevent that from happening. Only when he is in a relaxed and calm state do we offer to pet him, and even then, we stop when his body language tells us he is becoming excited. As we increased his enrichment, and the ability for him to do normal cat things, his conflicted behavior decreased very quickly.

Woreo has met several other kitties here and has done well with them. He may do ok with another cat as long as they can handle his exuberant, playful personality. Woreo has tested positive for FIV and will need to be indoors only in his new home. FIV is a virus that progresses very slowly, gradually affecting a cat's immune system over a period of years. This leaves them more susceptible to other infections that healthy cats would be able to fight off. FIV is most commonly spread through bite wounds, and research has shown it is generally not spread through casual, cordial contact between cats. FIV is a disease specific to cats and cannot be spread to humans or dogs. Cohabitation with cats not infected with FIV is generally considered to be okay; while it is possible for the cat to transmit the virus to another cat living in the household, the risk of serious fights between cats with a stable social structure is low.

For more information on FIV, please visit this helpful link: <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/feline-health-topics/feline-immunodeficiency-virus>

Woreo is very active and will need a home that can keep up with his energy level, one that can provide him with both physical and mental enrichment. He does like to relax and lounge throughout the day, and it is in these moments we would reward his calm behavior with treats. A home that can provide him with increased enrichment that includes a variety of toys, scratching posts to climb on, and windows for bird watching will make him very happy.

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

Confine Woreo to one cat-proof room in your house. Provide Woreo 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. Once he is using the litter box, eating regularly, and coming out of hiding to play with toys, you can start introducing him to the rest of your home.

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

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

Schedule interactive play sessions with him every day. Woreo 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 Woreo's attention. Or simulate mouse activity by sliding the end of the toy around on the floor in quick, jerky movements. Allow him to pounce and catch the toy and bat it around. Then start again. End your play session by allowing him to capture the toy.

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 Woreo get comfortable with his carrier will make it easier when it's time to visit the vet.

We're here to help!

We want Woreo 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 to connect with the Feline Services Manager.

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