



Florence 351011: What to Expect

Florence is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home. Florence is a social and handsome gentleman who is ready to find his forever home. He is a curious and active boy who appreciates having opportunities to exhibit natural cat behaviors such as climbing on cat towers, playing with toys and watching wildlife out the window. He enjoys being close by people, rubbing on legs for attention, leaning in for cheek and chin scratches and supervising all the activities going on around him

Florence came to OHS from the home of an overwhelmed cat caregiver who was no longer able to provide him with the care he needed. When he first arrived at OHS, Florence was housed in a standard stainless-steel cat kennel, as most cats at OHS are. However, the limited space was not conducive to his mental well-being. Over time, he became increasingly frustrated by the lack of room to explore, play, and engage with his surroundings. Florence was always eager to greet staff, often rubbing affectionately against their legs. While he was given opportunities to leave his kennel and walk around, he would often swat when it was time to return—seemingly communicating that he simply wasn't ready for the fun to end. It was clear the environment he was in was increasing his frustration and the decision was made to enroll him on Behavior Modification program. The environment in the BMOD program is better suited at helping cats feel comfortable in a shelter environment. With the larger kennel space, access to windows, increased enrichment, and dedicated one-on-one time with our team, we were able to learn more about his personality.

Florence acclimated to his new kennel in the BMOD program almost immediately. He quickly made himself at home by climbing onto his cat tower to watch the world outside, exploring all the toys provided, and settling comfortably into his new space. He greeted staff and volunteers with a sweet meow, and whenever he was given extra time outside his kennel, he happily explored and rubbed against our legs to show his appreciation. He loves interactive toys! When we soar a wand toy through the air, he eagerly stalks, chases, and pounces on it with plenty of enthusiasm. He also enjoys racing through tunnels and chasing after crinkly balls. An expert climber, Florence would thrive in a home with multiple scratching posts and cat trees where he can climb, perch, and lounge. Along with his playful personality, Florence is incredibly sweet with people and loves sharing his affection with those around him and being close to his friends. Because he enjoys following people around and tends to get underfoot, he may not be the best fit for a home with someone who has mobility challenges.

Florence initially struggled with the limited space of his smaller kennel, which sometimes led to frustration and behaviors such as swatting at staff. Once he was moved into the larger kennel in the BMOD program, his demeanor improved significantly. With a window to watch the world outside, climbing towers to explore, and plenty of opportunities for play and enrichment, Florence became much more comfortable and relaxed. Florence has also had the opportunity to meet several other cats during his time with us. He has made it clear that he prefers to have his space to himself and would be happiest as the only cat in his new home. A home that can provide him with plenty of enrichment, playtime, and opportunities to climb and explore will help Florence thrive. We know that in the right home, this wonderful boy will make an amazing companion and lifelong friend.

Here's how to help Florence during your first months together:

This step is crucial in helping Florence acclimate to his new home. Confine Florence to one cat-proof room in your house. Provide Florence 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.

Enrich his space. Florence 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 any frustrated behaviors.

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

Schedule interactive play sessions with her every day. Florence 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 Florence'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 Florence 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 Florence 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.

We're here to help!

We want Florence 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 the BMOD cat trainers at bmodcat@oregonhumane.org to connect with the Feline Behavior Modification department.

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