



Jordan Valley 351041: What to Expect

Jordan Valley is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home. Jordan Valley is a sweet, sensitive, and silly girl who is ready to find her forever home. Jordan Valley may be a little timid at first, but once she feels safe and secure, her charming, playful personality shines through. She loves being near her people, enjoying tasty treats, zooming around the room, sunbathing and birdwatching from her window-side cat tower, and playing with her favorite toys. While Jordan Valley may never be a social butterfly with everyone she meets, with patience and time to build trust, she will form a deep bond with her special person and become a fun-loving, energetic companion.

Jordan Valley came to OHS from the home of an overwhelmed cat caregiver who was no longer able to provide her with the care she needed. When Jordan Valley arrived at OHS she displayed fearful, shy behaviors that presented as hiding, cowering, and swatting when the staff attempted to engage with her. Due to the level of stress she was displaying and the impact it had on her ability to comfortably interact with staff, she was enrolled in our 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 help her decompress and learn more about her personality.

Jordan Valley was worried and overwhelmed during her first few days in BMOD. She spent most of her time perched on her cat tower, quietly observing us with wide, cautious eyes. If anyone approached too closely, she would run and dart away, telling us that she was frightened and needed space. We respected her boundaries, spoke to her softly, and offered treats to help her build positive associations with people. We soon learned that she loved crunchy treats and as we offered them to her, she gradually ate them in our presence. We also played bird videos on our phones for her to watch and we immediately saw her personality change from a worried, scared girl into a curious girl as she tracked the birds on the screen.

Because she showed an interest in bird TV we introduced a feather wand toy, and as we soared it through the air she transformed into an adorably silly hunter, enthusiastically stalking her target before standing on her hind legs and flopping gracefully onto her "prey". By pairing our presence with two of Jordan Valley's favorite things—playtime and treats— she gradually learned that people bring good things, helping her build confidence and trust. Today, she eagerly sits at the front of her kennel, watching us with curious and sweet, soft eyes, letting us know she is ready for her next play session.

As Jordan Valley's confidence grew, so did her trust in people. She began showing us just how much she enjoys having people around, perking up when she sees us and choosing to relax nearby—whether curled up at our feet while we worked on the computer or lounging comfortably beside us. While she loves being in our company, Jordan Valley is still cautious about being touched and may move away if someone attempts to pet her before she is ready. Even so, she often chooses to stay close, rolling around, showing off her playful and flirty personality, and engaging with people in ways that indicate she feels safe and enjoys their company. When she is feeling comfortable and secure, she will accept gentle pets along her cheeks, neck, and back, but she is still learning what petting is. Her future family should be

prepared to give her the time and patience she needs to continue building trust. They should also be willing to continue working with her on becoming more comfortable with touch, using gentle, positive interactions and respecting her boundaries as her confidence grows.

Jordan Valley showed curiosity when she spotted the other kitties in the program, perking up and watching with interest. We allowed her to venture out of her kennel to meet a few and she would follow them around in order to get to know them. She has had multiple playdates with other kitties in the program and while she can co-exist with them, she can sometimes become frustrated with their presence if they are too pushy with her. She seems to be more interested in playing with toys than with the other kitties. Jordan Valley would do fine with another kitty she can co-exist with, one that is happy to just hang out nearby her, but she would also do fine as the only kitty in her new home.

Jordan Valley has blossomed into the playful, sweet, and happy girl we always knew she could be. While she can still be startled by sudden movements or unfamiliar situations and may briefly run to hide, she recovers quickly with gentle reassurance and kind words. She has made tremendous progress during her time in the BMOD program, and we're confident she will continue to flourish in the right home. Jordan Valley will do best in a calm, patient home where her family will give her the time she needs to settle in at her own pace. If you are looking for a sweet, playful, and adorable girl, then Jordan Valley is the kitty for you!

Her new family should expect that she will hide for a few weeks, possibly longer. You'll need to introduce her to new things slowly. Jordan Valley typically flees and hides when overwhelmed or scared. It's important to provide her with a small room with appropriate hiding spots for her to relax in, such as her own hidey bed. Hiding spots that are confined to a tight spot and out of reach from you will make it difficult to build a bond with her. The room you set her up in will be the catalyst for how quickly she acclimates. Start thinking now which room in your home would be best for Jordan Valley to settle into. If it's a bedroom, can she get under the bed or dresser making it difficult to spend time with her? If it's a laundry room or bathroom will the constant in and out of people and noises associated with these rooms be too much for her? By having a room without a lot of foot traffic and with appropriate hiding spots, it will allow you to work on building a relationship. While in her hiding spot, use calm voices and offer tasty treats to show you are not a threat. Place a small amount of wet food or a treat on a spoon and offer it to Jordan Valley while in her hidey spot. Or offer her a toy to encourage play. Over time, by continuing to do this, Jordan Valley will become more comfortable and recognize that yummy food/toys = people, therefore creating a positive association between the two.

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

This step is crucial in helping Jordan Valley acclimate to her new home. Confine Jordan Valley to one cat-proof room in your house. Provide Jordan Valley 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.). Instead, provide her with a safe, comfortable hiding place like her cat carrier, a hidey-bed, or a large dog crate covered with a blanket.

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

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

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

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 Jordan Valley get comfortable with her carrier will make it easier when it's time to visit the vet.

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

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

We're here to help!

We want Jordan Valley 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 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 Jordan Valley 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!