**Precious 256546*:* What to Expect**

**Precious is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home**. Precious is a sweet, affectionate, and independent girl. She will be scared at first and will need a safe place to hide and adjust to her surroundings. Precious needs a quiet home with a patient, calm person. She would not do well in a home with a lot of hustle and bustle or one with children. It will take a good amount of time and patience to win her trust but once she knows you, she will lovingly offer headbutts and is always willing to compromise for a tasty treat!

You’ll need to introduce her to new things slowly. Precious does seem to enjoy the company of other cats and going to a home with a resident cat (or cats!) may help her come out of her shell and improve her confidence. Once she settles in, you’ll see that she loves treats, scratching posts and enjoys pets.

Precious may hide, hiss, or growl if you try to pet or handle her before she is comfortable. You’ll need to develop a relationship with her before attempting to pet her or trying to pick her up. Use treats and scratchers to help build trust.

**Here’s how to help Precious** **during your first month together:**

**Confine Precious to one cat-proof room in your house.** Provide Precious 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.). Precious may climb to try to get to a high spot or squeeze into a small space to hide. 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. To help her adjust, we will send you home with a crate and blanket she has been using at OHS.

**Spend time with Precious** **in her room.** Don’t force her out of her hiding spot. Instead, encourage her to come out on her own using wet food, treats or a scratcher. Once she is using the litter box, eating regularly, and coming out of hiding to eat when you are in the room, 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 Precious is worried about, allow her to hang back or hide if she chooses to do so.

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

**We’re here to help!**

We want Precious to be successful in your home. Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you now and in the future. Please reach out if you have any questions or just to give an update. We love to see photos and hear how our friends are doing! Call our Pet Behavior Helpline at (503)416-2983 or email bmod@oregonhumane.org.

Thank you for adopting from the Oregon Humane Society. Congratulations on your new cat!