Stanley 255950*:* What to Expect

**Stanley is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home**. Meet Stanley! This dapper gentleman is looking for a low-key home where he can gain confidence and grow! New situations make Stanley a little uncomfortable but once he settles in, he is sure to steal your heart. Stanley needs a quiet home with a patient, calm person who can help him be his best self. He would not do well in a home with a lot of hustle and bustle or one with small children. Once comfortable, he will brighten your day with his sweet chirping noises and headbutts galore! His favorite thing is playing with toys! If you have a feather wand, he will quickly show you his playful personality!

Stanley came from a home with multiple cats, and he adores having a cat companion to play with. His friend Violet 259305 is also here, and they would love to find a home together. Having another cat in the home may help him come out of his shell and improve his confidence. Once he settles in, you’ll see that he loves treats and toys and enjoys pets.

You’ll need to introduce him to new things slowly. Stanley may hide, hiss, growl, swat if you try to pet or handle him before he is comfortable. You’ll need to develop a relationship with him before attempting to pet him or trying to pick him up. Use treats and play time with interactive toys (like feather toys) to help build trust.

**Here’s how to help Stanley during your first months together:**

**Confine Stanley to one cat-proof room in your house.** Provide Stanley 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.

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

**Schedule interactive play sessions with him every day.** Stanley 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 Stanley’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.

**Enrich his space.** Stanley 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 inappropriate behaviors. He also likes watching birds on TV or out the window.

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

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

**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 Stanley 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 Stanley 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.

Patience will come in handy for you. Stanley is a cat that needs an understanding owner who has the time and desire to allow him to adapt in his own time. Getting to know him and watching him come out of his shell will be extremely rewarding. Celebrate those small victories.

**We’re here to help!**

We want Stanley 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 bmod@oregonhumane.org.

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