



Sebastian: What to Expect

Sebastian is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and is ready for a special home.

Sebastian is a sweet, playful boy once he gets to know a person, but he will be shy at first. Sebastian needs a quiet home with a patient, calm person. He would not do well in a home with a lot of hustle and bustle or one with small children.

Sebastian came from a quiet home and needs his next home to be quiet and predictable. You'll need to introduce him to new things slowly. Sebastian has previously lived with another cat but would likely do best as the only pet in the home. Once he settles in, you'll see that he loves treats and toys and enjoys pets.

You'll need to develop a relationship with Sebastian before attempting to pick him up. Use treats and play time with interactive toys (like feather toys) to help build trust.

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

Confine Sebastian to one cat-proof room in your house. Provide Sebastian 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.) and instead, provide him with an appropriate places like his cat carrier, a hidey-bed, or a large dog crate covered with a blanket.

Spend time with Sebastian 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 Sebastian is worried about, allow him to hang back or hide if he chooses to do so.

Continue to provide a safe space. Even when Sebastian 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 Sebastian time to adjust to your house, routine and lifestyle before introducing him to new people. When you have visitors over, give Sebastian the freedom to make the decision to interact (or not!). Ask new people to ignore him – or if Sebastian 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 of 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 Sebastian 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 Sebastian 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. Sebastian is a cat that needs an understanding owner who has the time and desire to allow him to adapt in his own time. He may never be a social butterfly, and that's okay! Getting to know him and watching him come out of his shell will be extremely rewarding. Celebrate those small victories.

Try using **Feliway (Cat Pheromone)** or **Rescue Remedy by Bach Flower Essences**. These products can help cats settle in new environments by easing the stress associated with change.

We're here to help!

We want Sebastian to be successful in his home. Call our free Pet Behavior Helpline at (503)416-2983 or book a one-on-one training consultation at oregonhumane.org/training. Enter the promo code **ADOPT** to receive 10% off a single training consultation.

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