

Franklin

Currently Eating

Dry Food: Purina Kitten Chow (see page 6)

Canned Food: Friskies Liver and Chicken pate

In a Nutshell

Franklin is a loving, affectionate, companionable kitten with a sweet, soft purr. He's something of a talker at times too. He can be shy at first, but is a very sociable little guy. He wants to be with people, and he *loves* other cats. He climbs like a monkey and runs like a champ. He's very intelligent and learns and adapts quickly.

With only one rear leg, walking is not his best thing.



From the beginning...

Franklin can be shy at first. Partly, it seems, he knows he doesn't always move quickly. He really loves interacting, so he will try to overcome his uncertainty quickly. He likes to have a place to retreat when he's uncertain. He'll run beneath the bench or bed, or if he's in the playroom, there's a "house" at the base of the kitty castle where he'll move to until he knows it's safe. His nervousness/shyness seems to stem from his awareness of his limitations, but he also needs a little time to become comfortable in new surround-

Franklin

ings and with new people. He's very brave and intelligent. When you talk to him, he listens solemnly (unless he's playing). He's very well behaved, and responds well to direction or correction. He is still a kitten though, so he'll need some guidance in his new home. For example, he sometimes forgets and tries to use furniture as a scratching post. He responds to a stern "No" and moving him to a scratching post.

Franklin needs a vertical scratching post to keep his claws in proper order, and needs to use front and back claws for climbing. We have a tall kitty castle (5'5") that he uses for claws maintenance and climbing/playing. This seems to be important for his back claws. We also have a tall vertical scratching post and a couple shorter ones. He tends to lay down to use those for stretches.



One of Franklin's unique issues has to do with the litter box. Franklin uses the litter box superbly, and has never had any accidents. However, he is a digger and whether because of only three legs or some obsessiveness, he does scatter litter when he's covering up. I would recommend a high sided litter box with a shorter entry point. We're using standard sided boxes, but it involves frequent sweeping up of cat litter that's been tossed outside the box. He's a fastidious groomer and dedicated to being clean.

Franklin

Franklin prefers flat, firmer surfaces for resting or sleeping, like a rug or cat mat. He sleeps on the sofa, but not on the plushy or cushy blankets, rather on the sofa cushion. He rarely likes to lay or walk on soft or cushy surfaces. He walks *ok* on hardwood floors, but runs really well. The sound of his three feet running down the hall is distinctive and adorable.



It took a while for Franklin to be comfortable being picked up. He's very aware of his balance, and doesn't like to feel out of control or unbalanced. He's now very happy to be picked up and cuddled, as long as he feels secure. He works hard at balance and feeling in control. He loves cuddles and purrs sweetly in a very soft purr when he's being petted and loved.

Franklin loves to play! He loves all toys and will play with just about anything. He loves the Cat Dancer toy if I pull it around the floor for him to chase. He can hop over things to catch it and never tires of chasing it. He will even play with it on his own. I mentioned how intelligent he is. One of the displays of that intelligence is how he's learned to play on his own with it. He'll pick up one end or the middle in his mouth and chase the opposite end around the rooms. It's really adorable that he figured that out. He likes

Franklin

chasing balls and likes playing with toys that make noise. We have a scratching post that has marbles embedded in the base, and he loves scooting those things around and trying to get them out.

Franklin had adapted well to his disability by the time he came to us. He was already using his proper back leg by centering it beneath his butt for balance. He has extraordinarily long toes front and back, and he uses them more effectively than most cats. He does an odd thing with his front right paw. He'll reach for things (such as those embedded marbles), but flips the paw upside down toward the center. I suspect it was an adaptation of some sort related to his disability, but it's interesting to watch and try to figure out what it's about.



Franklin had a stump of a rear left leg when he came to us. His veterinarian decided he'd do better if they amputated. His surgery occurred a few weeks later and he did really well. He had to stay in a cage (running, jumping and climbing were prohibited) and wear an e-collar for 10 days, during which time he re-learned to balance and move about very well.

Speaking of his intelligence...he had a difficult time using the litter box with the e-collar. He kept getting his claws stuck in the collar as he tried to make holes and cover after-

Franklin

ward. I tried to be present when he needed to use the box, and would remove the collar so he could “do his business” (as my grandmother used to say), then put the collar back on. He appreciated having the collar off, and would be frustrated when I’d put it back on because it prevented him from grooming properly. I took him out for brief, supervised play and grooming time starting around day 7. He loved being free of the collar and being able to play and groom properly.



On the seventh day, I woke up in the morning and went to remove the collar so he could use the litter box. He had managed to get completely out of the collar overnight (and was quite proud of himself!). In addition to using the litter box and grooming, he had also removed two of his sutures, causing the incision to bleed a bit. I was very diligent from that point forward to pay attention to the security of the ties on the collar.

We did fine and had no more sutures chewing until day 11), when I started letting him keep the collar off. He was still sleeping in the cage and I would put the collar on each night. However, once he’d learned to get out of it, it was a losing battle. His incision was well healed by that time and he was ready to move about and work on his balance and motion skills. Despite knowing I didn’t want him to chew at the sutures, he still managed

Franklin

to work on them when I wasn't present. If I was in the room, he'd start to chew, then stop, look me in the eye, and instead start to play. However, when I wasn't present, he went right ahead, ultimately removing all the remaining sutures on his own. Fortunately, he was healed enough that his work caused no more problems. Once he was allowed to resume his normal energetic kitten activities, his skill and abilities have improved significantly. He's quite good at jumping up onto low tables and chairs (including toilets). He's a terrific climber. He just keeps learning and adapting.

Franklin loves other cats and is always trying to play with them. He gets along with our cat Theodore who is about a year older than he. They chase each other, tackle each other and wrestle. Franklin is brave and bold and doesn't back down. Any cat he sees he tries to entice to play with him. He's a talker. He talks to us, and he and Theodore have a special cat language they use together.

Food: He's a very good eater and will remind you when it's time for canned food treat or if his dry food dish is empty. He does seem interested in our food, though he's never been given anything but cat food or treats. He's technically on purina kitten chow dry, but he's got access to Theodore's food and seems to prefer that. (Newman's Advanced blended 50/50 with Organix Chicken and Potato). He doesn't seem to have any tummy sensitivity or food issues, so I suspect he'll do fine on anything.



Franklin

Franklin loves to lay next to me and have chest and tummy rubbed. He's very sociable and doesn't really like to be alone. He loves rubbing on his people, and runs up to us when we enter the room. He does ok alone for a few hours, but is always so welcoming and happy to see us when we return.



As He Moves On

Franklin loves people and being with them whatever they're doing. He'd like a family who will share time and cuddles, as well as play with him often. He wants a safe home with a very playful kitty (or kitties) companion where he can run, climb, jump, chase, tackle and roughhouse to his hearts content.

FRANKLIN IS A BUDDY. HE LOVES BEING PART OF EVERYTHING. HE'S CHARMING, SWEET, LOVING, AFFECTIONATE AND SMART. HE'S A PERFECT COMPANION AND FAMILY MEMBER FOR PEOPLE AND KITTIES WHO CAN SHARE CUDDLE TIME, PLAY TIME AND LOVE HIM!

Franklin



Videos with Franklin:

Supervised Playtime - https://youtu.be/p_ClQjK69A0

Amazing Franklin - <https://youtu.be/dWqpfZf6gq8>