

## **Gemma**

### **Currently Eating**

**Dry Food:** Purina Kitten Chow always available

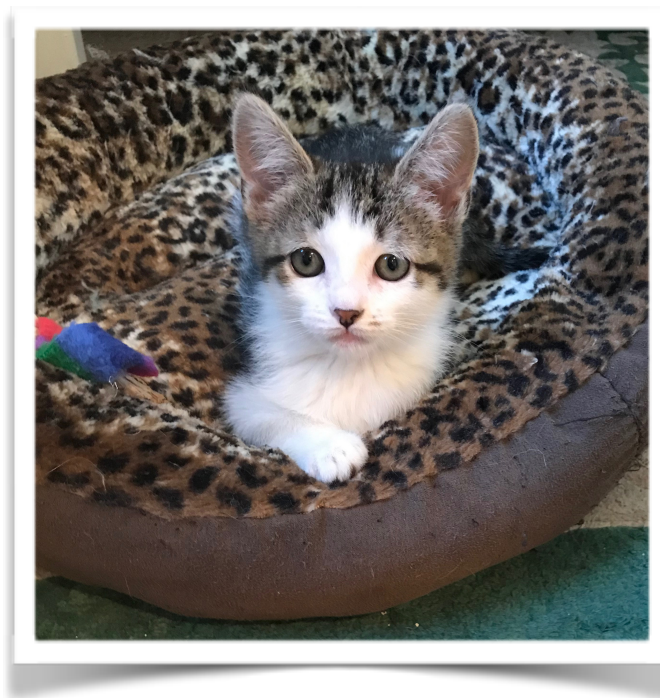
**Canned Food:** Pate style Friskies, Fancy Feast or Purina Beyond

For active video links visit [www.pet-helpers.com/gemma.pdf](http://www.pet-helpers.com/gemma.pdf)

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### **In a Nutshell**

Gemma is brave, bold, feisty and wants to be the center of attention. She loves to play whether in my lap or tearing around the rooms, chasing and attacking toys and her litter-mates. She genuinely loves human interaction, especially playtime. She's demonstrative with her appreciation of how you care for her by being at your side, waiting. She has complete faith in you to keep her clean and well fed. She's paid me the compliment of treating me like one of her litter-mates by biting me and wrestling with me as if I'm one of them.



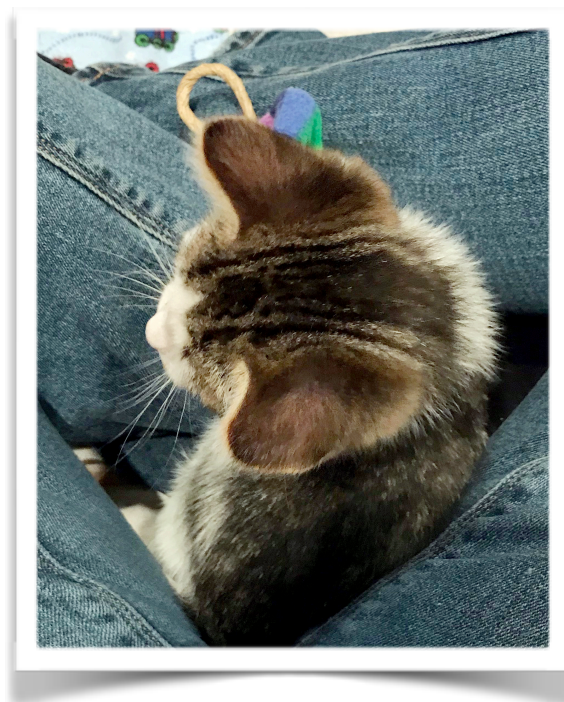
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### **About Gemma**

From the moment Gemma arrived, she was very calm and collected. At about 4 weeks old or so, she really wasn't worried about anything in the new environment or anything I was doing. She was the first to come greet me when I entered, and still always follows me to the door when I'm leaving. She loves life; loves to play, loves to eat, loves to be noticed.

I call her a little firecracker because she bounces and jumps wildly without concern for the consequence. It's in a cat's nature to "stalk, catch and subdue prey", and with tame kittens, that's how they play. When she's playing this way, she bites very hard. It's not meant to be mean, she's just playing.

She often plays in my lap, but will also come and get into my lap when she's wanting to settle down or in one case, when she wasn't feeling well. When she's calm in my lap, she loves being petted. She's very affectionate and interactive.



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### **Eating**

Gemma eats well. She enjoys dry food throughout the day and fresh water. She *loves* canned food too. She winds around my ankles when I'm dishing up canned food, sometimes biting me to hurry me up. She's generally slower to finish than the others, but will go around to all the dishes to see what they've left. She has dry food always available, and a small amount of canned in the morning and evening. When I'm dishing it up, she winds around my ankles, rolls down onto her back and sometimes bites my foot if I'm too slow. She likes to watch me fill the water dishes from the water dispenser. She frequently talks to me while I'm dealing with food and water dishes.

### **Litter Box**

Gemma has always been very good about using the litter box. We started with one box of non-clumping clay and one blended with Yesterday's News. I've now added a box with unscented clumping litter which she seems to prefer.



### **Housing**

Gemma and her siblings started out in my Guest Bedroom Bathroom. For the first afternoon/night, they stayed there in a good sized cage that holds a small litter box, food and water dishes with a kitty bed to curl up. The cage was covered with a blanket to offer a little privacy and security until they felt comfortable. That first day, I spent

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time going in to hold and cuddle them so they'd begin to get used to my sound and scent. (The cage gives me time to evaluate how frightened they are in the new environment. It's stressful for everyone to try and catch a frightened kitten that is trying to hide.)

The next morning, I opened the cage so they could come out and explore the room if they wanted. Of course, Gemma immediately stretched and walked out to check out the space. She walked all around, smelling everything and batting at all the toys. Then I introduced them to the Cat Dancer toy. She was interested immediately and started following it as I pulled it around. Gemma proved to be a great leader and soon everyone was tearing around the room, chasing, tackling and wrestling with each other.

I moved the cat bed out to the main room and added a furry mat to the cage. I also added additional litter boxes and food/water dishes outside the cage. After they seemed comfortable with me and the household sounds (about 2 weeks), I opened up the door into the Guest Bedroom and let them explore. They were a little nervous for a while, but soon began racing all over, beneath the bed, running back into the bathroom, then back into the big room.





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After a couple of daytime adventures exploring, and when I was certain they knew to go back to the bathroom for litter boxes, food and water, I gave them free run of both rooms.

### **Bedding and Sleeping**

About half the time when I go in, Gemma is curled up on blankets in chairs with a sibling, or sometimes back in the cage on a furry mat where she also likes to sleep. Gemma has also always enjoyed the soft cat bed with the cozy rim around the edge. (The rest of the time they're all running around like a herd of little horses, chasing each other and playing with toys. I can hear them from the kitchen and they're clearly having fun.)



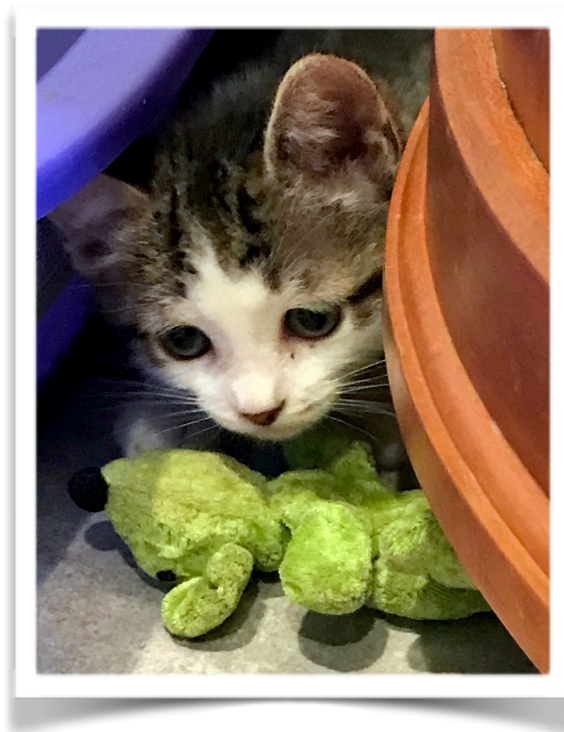
### **Playing and Toys**

Because Gemma plays so rough and often in my lap, I try to have toys nearby I can give her to chew on (rather than me). Her favorite play is interactive with me or with her siblings. She loves to chase the Cat Dancer, running around after it while I pull it along

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the floor. She's very fast! When she's in my lap playing, I give her one of the Cat Dancer Chaser toys which she can bite and chew on. I recently started playing with her with a laser toy and she LOVES to chase that little red dot around the room.

I also recently started covering her with a small blanket while she's being wild so I can play with her and not have my hands scratched up. She seems to like being underneath and reaching out to grab toys as I pull them past. She likes to be jiggled while she's kicking with her back feet. I start by enticing her on top of the blanket and then gently pulling one side over her so she can see her way out if she's nervous. Now when she sees that blanket, she often tries to burrow underneath for play.



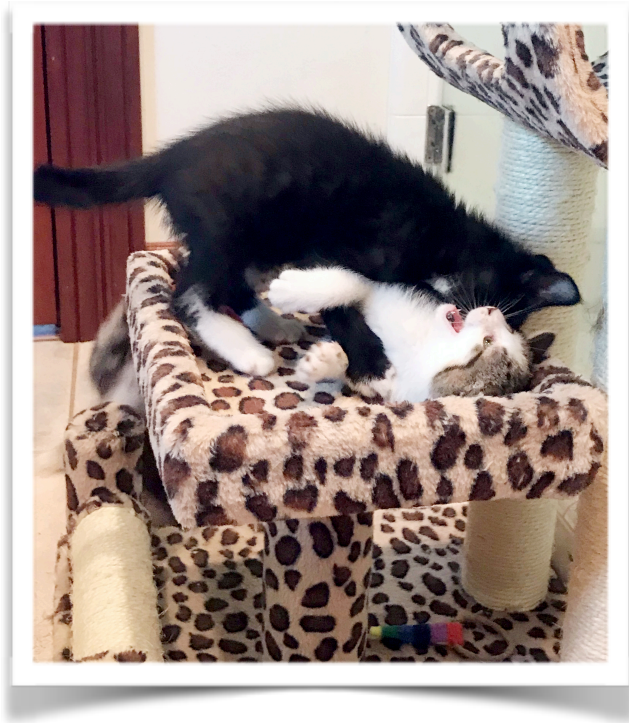
I have on my iPad and iPhone, the Friskies Kitty Fishing Game which she enjoys playing at "catching" the fish and when she gets really excited, hops onto the top to really go for it. This holds her attention briefly unless she's really tired.

Another thing she seems to enjoy is a scratching post that has marbles embedded in it's base. She likes watching the marbles roll around and then pokes her paws in to

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scoot them along. Watch the video of she and Daphne playing with the marbles - <https://youtu.be/LL2P1dIKIfQ>

The other types of toys she seems to enjoy are soft toys she can carry around in her mouth, especially if they have feathers. She loves to lay in the sunny spot on the floor chewing on toys. She likes toys she can bite and hold, then kick with her back feet. She's not always comfortable with toys that make crinkling noises. She's sometimes nervous about the crinkle tunnel, but she seems to like the small crinkle toys she can carry or bat around.



## **Grooming and Behavior**

Gemma is a diligent groomer and always very clean. Of course she's a young kitten so she does get cat litter scattered around and makes a mess around the feeding spots at times.

She's very good about using a vertical scratching post. We have two stand-alone and a cat tree with sisal and fur covered legs she uses. She is a kitten and will need guidance

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about what she can and can't use in her new home. It's important to have them in the rooms where she sleeps, because she'll need a stretch when she first wakes up. I find it's very helpful when she's learning, to repeatedly "show" her what to use. I do this by putting her near it and running my finger nails up and down the sisal. She'll reach up to stretch and groom her claws as she catches on.

She's sometimes startled by sounds, especially if it's something new. When that happens, she'll run and hide, but always recovers quickly. She can be reserved with new people, but we just pull out the cat dancer and she'll come out to investigate and soon start to play.



She can get wild while playing, but *it is* playful. When she settles down, she's quite sweet and loving. Some of the ways I've found to counteract rough kitten behavior are to distract (give a fresh toy or let her chase something) or spray her with a misting water bottle. The distraction often works, but the water can be a deterrent to behavior that needs to be permanently changed.



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### **Her Ideal New Home**

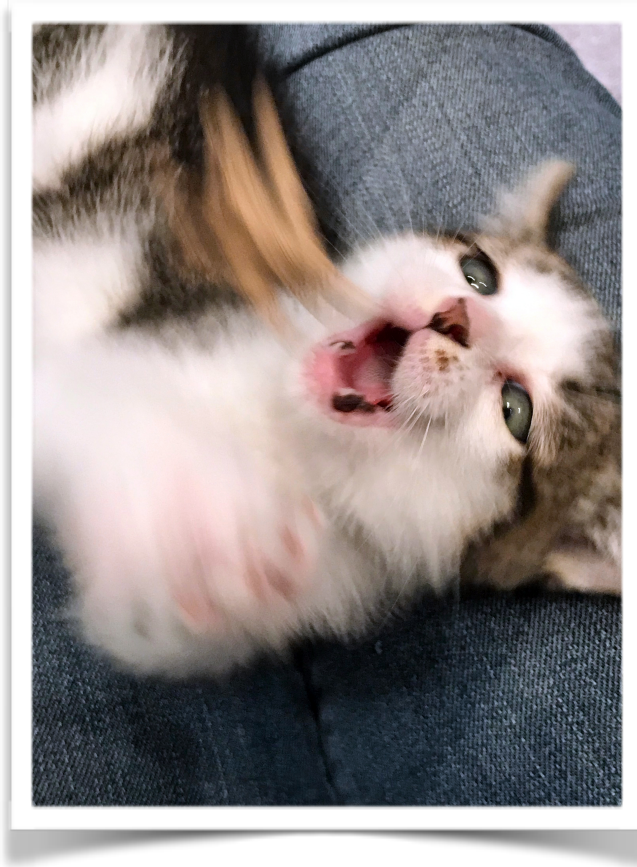
Gemma is fairly self-confident, but will want an adjustment period to her new environment. She plays well on her own for a while, but also needs plenty of interactive play and socialization. She will be happiest in a home where she'll have plenty of human companionship. Because she plays so rough, she'd probably do best in a home with another playful kitten or cat, or possibly a cat-friendly dog. (She hasn't been exposed to dogs yet.)



She will need a little time to adjust to new surroundings and sounds, and will need someone quiet, gentle and patient about showing her the new house rules and schedule. Scheduling is something she learns quickly and is fully prepared to learn yours.

She wants lots of interactive toys (those you play with with her) and lots of room to run. She's a jumper and hopper, and does this with abandon, so she needs room to do so without endangering any of your precious possessions.

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### **Videos with Gemma**

**Baby Gemma playing** <https://youtu.be/2QWZRRmuvR4>

**Fierce Gemma** <https://youtu.be/paTqjPEipu8>

**First time out of the cage** <https://youtu.be/jnYe5BT88bQ>

**Gemma and Daphne playing marbles** <https://youtu.be/LL2P1dIKIfQ>