

## **Ivy**

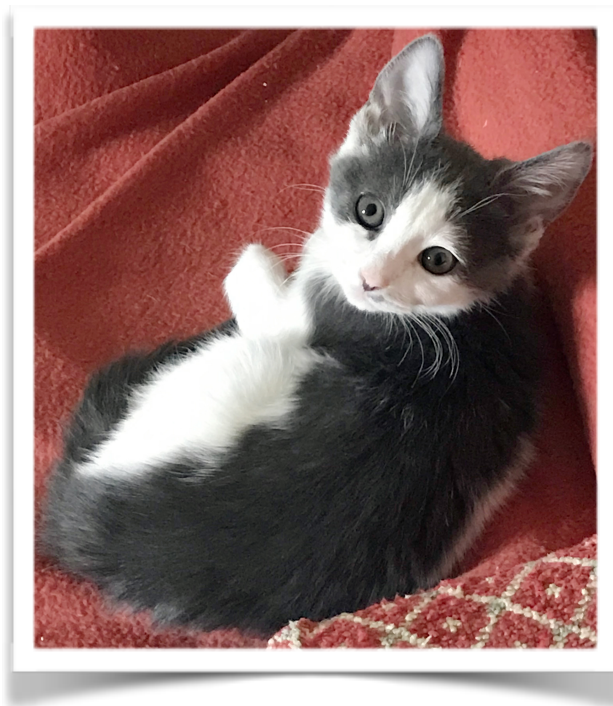
### **Currently Eating**

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

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

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

*Ivy is sweetness and light...and incredibly active. She's a loving soul, purring loudly in greeting or simply as a response to her pleasure at being cuddled. Playing is serious business for Ivy, but she is clear and straightforward when conveying her love.*



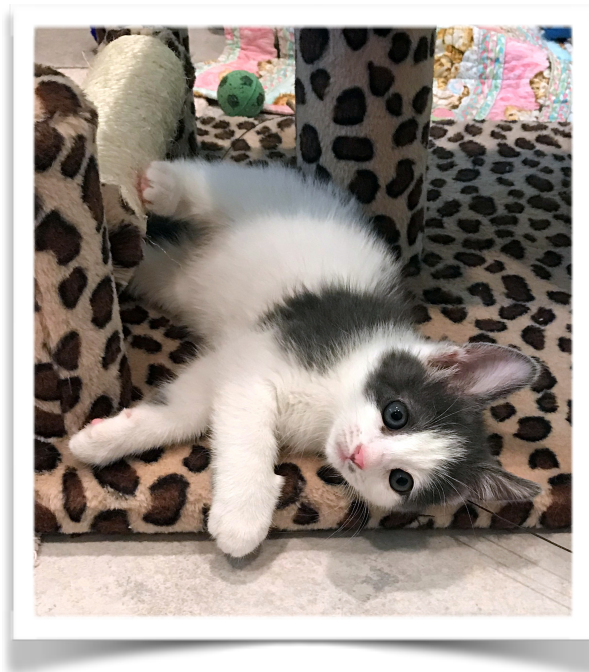
### **In a Nutshell**

Ivy can be very shy at first, but once she has the lay of the land, she becomes pretty independent, as well as very loving. She loves to play and will play on her own when her litter mates are sleeping or sitting in my lap. She sometimes lays next to me, and when she's not busy with her toys or wrestling, she climbs into my lap to receive love and the focus of my attention. If I fail to pay proper attention, she'll talk to me to bring my focus to her. Although her approach seems gentle and tentative at times, she's quite a determined little girl. Pay close attention, because *she will* steal your heart!

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## **About Ivy**

Ivy is fast and talented in the agility department. She's great at jumping and climbing, as well as being very brave. She likes to be "up", so she climbs up onto the bed and chairs and the bedside table. She really likes the cat tree, and runs and climbs all over it. She also loves to be on top of the cage (in the bathroom - more later in Housing) when I'm in there cleaning or freshening water or preparing food.



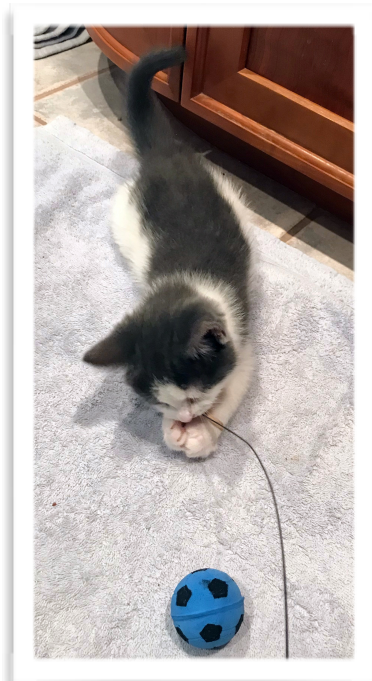
She's an active girl and always up and doing when I'm in with them. She really enjoys interactive play, but if that isn't available, she grabs one of her toys and runs around with it, chewing and rolling over, getting up and continuing on to another toy.

She's been camera shy until just recently, hiding or walking away whenever she would see me trying to get a photo of her. She's reserved at first with new people, waiting and watching until one of her siblings has decided it's safe and started to investigate. As she's come to know her rooms and the household sounds, she's also become a little more adventurous. I think once she's in her forever home, she may lose the reticence with new people.

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Sounds are also something that can startle or unnerve her at times. We listen to soft music (on my phone) when I visit and play with them. At first it really bothered her, but now she'll come over and lay down on top of the phone. I can't tell if it's the music or the phone she likes. Maybe she's just trying to stop it or turn it off.

Ivy does have a vocal nature. In addition to expressing her opinions or requesting attention, she also growls when she's playing. She takes playing very seriously. Either with a toy in her mouth or just "pretending" to be doing battle, I often hear her growling when she's playing. She plays rough with her siblings, and with me when she forgets. She is not in any way rough when she's not playing.



Her nature is very loving and affectionate, and her loud purring is one of the most obvious demonstrations. As soon as she sees me she starts purring and it's audible across the room. If I pick her up to pet her while she's playing, despite the fact that she really wants to PLAY, she starts purring. It's as though she can't help but express affection when she's getting love.

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### **Eating**

Ivy eats well and has dry food and water available at all times. She loves canned food. She gets a small amount in the morning and in the evening. She recognizes the sound of the dishes being set out on the counter and comes running in to wait at my feet. She can however, be distracted from her treat if she hears someone playing with a toy she likes. Sometimes she'll leave to play and come back to find someone has finished hers as well as their own.

### **Litter Box**

Ivy's good about using the litter box. She's a kitten, so she *is* sometimes messy with tracking litter around. I caught her once with a little poop stuck to her behind, and have found some on the floor just outside the litter box a couple of times. A mat beneath the litter box is helpful.



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### **Housing**

Ivy 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 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. Ivy was not the first one to come out to explore. She maintained her reserve while a couple of her litter-mates started to inspect the room. Then I introduced them to the Cat Dancer toy. She was interested immediately and watched it intently, occasionally swiping to try to catch it. Soon everyone was tearing around the room, chasing, tackling and wrestling with each other.



Once they started to move in and out of the cage without hesitation, I moved the cat bed out to the main room and placed a furry mat in its place. I also added additional

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litter boxes and food/water dishes outside the cage. After a couple of weeks, they seemed comfortable with me and the household sounds, so I opened up the door into the Guest Bedroom and let them explore the big space. 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.

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**

Frequently when I go in to visit and play, Ivy is curled up on a blanket in one of the chairs. She also is sometimes sleeping inside the tube at the top of the cat tree. Sometimes she'll curl up with one of her siblings, either Gemma or Daphne for the most part. On the rare occasions when she wants to settle down when I'm present, she'll curl up next to me or get into my lap and purr.



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### **Playing and Toys**

Ivy LOVES to play. She loves interactive play very much and will chase the Cat Dancer as I pull it around the floor, or she'll jump up in the air to catch it. She also loves the laser toy and chases the red dot everywhere it goes. She plays quite wildly and energetically. She loves running and chasing her siblings. She also loves wrestling with them.

If there's no one else to play with, she'll run around the room grabbing toys, tossing them in the air and hopping on top of them. She was the first one to start playing in the crinkle tunnel and loves to run inside or through to get to another toy. I haven't found a toy Ivy doesn't like to play with yet.

I have on my iPad and iPhone, the Friskies Kitty Fishing Game and Ivy likes to watch the fishes, then bounce on them.

Other than interactive toys, some additional types of toys she enjoys are soft toys she can carry around in her mouth, such as soft balls or plush toys. She likes small crinkle toys she can carry or bat around. She loves to chase balls around the floor.



Breakfast first morning

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### **Grooming and Behavior**

Ivy is a diligent groomer and always very clean. She's a young kitten so sometimes she does get cat litter scattered around and makes a mess around the feeding spots.

She likes to use a vertical scratching post for stretching and climbing. We have two stand-alone and a cat tree with sisal and fur covered legs. She's a kitten and will need guidance about what she can and can't use in her new home. It's important to have scratching posts 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.

Ivy can seem like a loner, but she's really very connected and affectionate. She will play well by herself if I'm not available and her litter mates are otherwise occupied, but she will come back for love and affection when she's ready. She always greets me when I go in to visit and play. If I don't get over to her for hello and cuddles right away, she'll come to me and make sure she gets her loving.

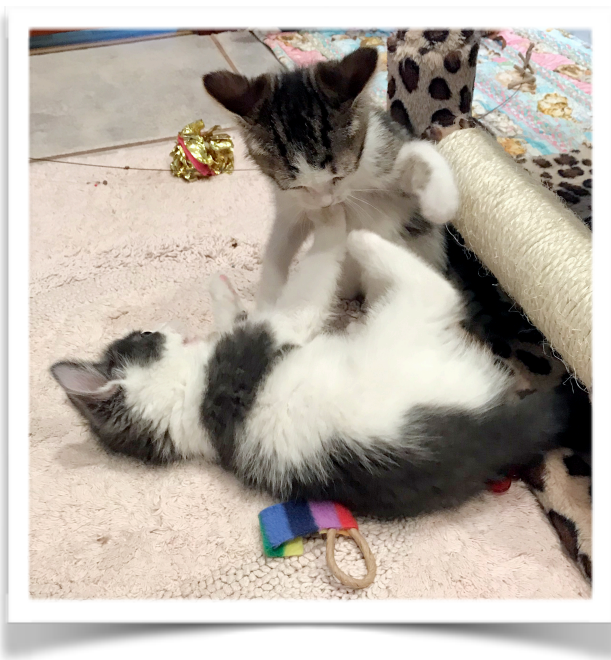


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## **Her Ideal New Home**

Ivy wants a home where she'll have lots of safe space to run, climb and leap. She loves toys and wants to make sure she has plenty to keep her occupied when her person or family aren't available for interactive play. She does need interactive play too though. Maybe with a laser toy, and definitely chasing a Cat Dancer toy. She also wants a person who likes to throw toys for her to chase. Yeah!

Ivy could probably tolerate a little bit of solitary time, so long as it isn't excessive. She's got tons of love to give, and it needs to have a proper recipient (or recipients). She also wants someone who listens to her when she speaks and who will converse with her while they spend playtime and cuddle time together.



Ivy (on her back) wrestling with Gemma



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### **Videos with Ivy**

**Ivy & Daphne playing** <https://youtu.be/rCo68df9Dos>

**Ivy playing while Nigel explores** <https://youtu.be/veth6SgCMYg>

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

**Ivy, Gemma and Daphne** <https://youtu.be/TK5kFRUvBUw>