

Jasper

Currently Eating

Dry Food: Purina Kitten Chow

Canned Food: Fancy Feast or Friskies pate

For active video links and better quality photos, **visit www.pet-helpers.com/jasper.pdf**

Jasper is a big, sweet bundle of love. He will quickly make you fall for him when he comes and climbs into your lap and favors you with his adoring gaze. That look and his purring will be evidence of his love for you.

In a Nutshell

Jasper is a shy boy, and in fact when he first arrived, he wouldn't even look at me. He would hide his face in his bed or beneath a mat. But once he decided to trust me, he wanted to be held, cuddled, kissed and hugged. He's very playful and energetic and enjoys jumping, running, climbing, wrestling with his siblings and playing with his toys.



How we got from there to here...

Jasper came to stay with me along with two of his three litter mates on September 4. When I first met him in the cat carrier he hissed at me (they all did). He was so scared and not in the least interested in being handled. When I brought him home and transferred him from the carrier to the cage, he immediately crawled to the very back corner of their cage and burrowed under the cat bed. He did *not* want to be held or touched.

Jasper

He was never a fighter and he didn't struggle, but if he saw me reach for him, he'd hiss at me. I was always able to reach in and grab the scruff of his neck from behind him so I could pull him out and hold him. It took some time, but I made sure to pick him up and hold him (and the others) every few hours during the day. He got used to it, but it took him longer than the others to become brave enough to relax. Holding them frequently coupled with little bits of canned food treats a few times a day, helped him start to relax. I introduced them to the cat dancer toy after a few days and that also helped the progress. After a few days, I started giving him (them) one quarter of a 3 oz can of food once in the morning and again in the evening rather than many tiny meals. They always have dry food available. Eventually the hissing stopped.

When I could tell he was enthusiastic about and responsive to the cat dancer toy, I let them all out of the cage to play in the room. They would run around and chase each other, play with toys and then I'd be able to entice them back into the cage with the cat dancer toy. See a video of them at play time on their first day out of the cage:

<https://youtu.be/HYQ3CkscuXw>

Jasper on top of Riley



He started coming out of the cage, but he'd still avoid coming too near me. After he observed his sisters and brother playing in my lap or coming to me for cuddles, he started being what I call a "closet" cuddler. I would sit on the floor, and they would all be playing

Jasper



on or near me. He'd come out of the cage and while we were all engaged, he'd get on my feet, and slowly ooze up toward my lap. When he finally got to be closest to me, he'd stretch out across my lap, facing away from me. I'd start petting him and he'd stretch out his toes and relax. Subtle.

He likes curling up on a cat bed, or a flannel blanket and sometimes a chair.

He's very good about using the litter box and fastidious about his grooming. However, he's a big boy and sometimes he overshoots his goal, so a standard or large litter box is essential. I'm home all day and check and scoop as needed every few hours during the day. I've also added boxes as they've grown. I find an extra litter box goes a long way to avoiding stress. They have 5 litter boxes for the 4 kittens, and we have no "accidents" intentional or otherwise.

Jasper is a good eater and really loves food. We have a little game though that started when he was still too scared to come to me. He comes and hops onto the bathroom counter while I'm dishing up the food, but won't go to his dish at first. I go over and pick him up whereupon he begins purring very loudly. I take him to his dish and he dives right in. In the early days he'd come into the bathroom where the feeding station is while I was dishing up the canned food, but wouldn't come to the dish when I put it down. I'd have to follow him as he tried to get away from me, but he'd always eat well once I got him to his dish. He eats Purina Kitten Chow very well, and I originally fed him Friskies pate style canned food, but he didn't eat much, so I switched to Fancy Feast. He likes

Jasper

Salmon & Shrimp and Seafood Feast a lot, but also eats Chopped Grill dinner.

Jasper loves playing with his siblings, wrestling or chasing each other. He LOVES the cat dancer toy. I run it up the wall or wave it over their heads and he jumps and races around trying to catch it. Recently he's been introduced to two new toys he really loves too. One is "Da Bird" which is a long pole with a string and a feathered "bird" at the end. He loves jumping for it and racing around after it when I pull it across the floor. The other toy he loves lately is a laser cat toy. He literally climbs the walls as I run that little red dot across the rug and up the wall. He does that little kitty clicking thing they do when they're watching a bird. It's adorable! He also does that with the cat dancer and Da Bird.



In many ways Jasper is a pretty calm kitten, despite being so shy, or perhaps because of that. Once he trusts, he's pretty relaxed. For example, when I used to go in their room, he'd scoot under the edge of the bed until he knew what I was going to do. Now when I go in, he lays right where he was, in my path waiting for me. That's not to say he isn't rambunctious when playing with his siblings. He can get just as wild as they: running, jumping and tackling.

Over the past two months, I've brought visitors to meet them and play. At first, he was very reserved and would move under the bed. I always give new people or visitors a cat

Jasper

dancer toy to entice the kittens, and they come up to play and sniff the new person. Now when we have a visitor, he'll retreat to the edge of the bed and safety until he sees the others playing and sniffing the newcomer. Then he'll come over to investigate. He will eventually even accept being petted by someone he's just met.



We've been rehearsing being in a new environment this week (post Thanksgiving). I carry him and his siblings one at a time upstairs to my cat Theodore's room. When I carry Jasper out of his room, he's very curious and looking all around as we pass through the rooms. He will be shy and a little scared in a new place and with new people at first, but he loves affectionate cuddles, and is somewhat food motivated and very much play motivated. Using those activities to encourage his friendship will be very helpful. It's also helpful to sit on the floor or at his level initially so he doesn't feel intimidated.

Jasper loves to be loved. He will come get in my lap then lean his head back to look up into my eyes. He'll reach up a paw or both paws indicating he wants to be in my arms. He often will lay beside me on his back with belly exposed, and especially likes being rubbed on his chest, cheeks and chin. He's very big and very sweet.

His Ideal New Home...

Jasper is a cuddler big time. He'll thrive in a safe place where he can run, jump, climb and be generally rambunctious during play, but where he'll also have plenty of lap time and kisses and love. He likes to listen to household activity, so once trust is established,

Jasper

and he's become familiar with the household sounds and people, he'll probably want to have a flannel blanket or kitty castle and a cat bed where he can feel safe and call his own. He enjoys looking out the windows and chattering at the birds, and he loves stalking and catching his toys, so he may want to spend time outdoors after he gets accustomed to his new place. He needs someone who can keep his litter box cleaned and his food and water dishes filled and provide plenty of companionship.

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Videos with Jasper:

With brother Riley - <https://youtu.be/Le9V1YpPtPU>

Jasper grooming - <https://youtu.be/fpAEhfKqWQ8>

First Cat Dancer play time - https://youtu.be/MoJm_WKwPcM