

## ***Phoebe***

### **Currently Eating**

**Dry Food:** Purina Kitten Chow

**Canned Food:** Fancy Feast or Friskies pate

For active video links & better quality photos **visit [www.pet-helpers.com/phoebe.pdf](http://www.pet-helpers.com/phoebe.pdf)**

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### **In a Nutshell**

Phoebe was a tiny little girl, shivering and alone in a cat carrier when I picked her up. As soon as I got her home, held her in my lap and offered her a tiny bit of canned food, she began to purr and play in my arms. She was the tiniest of four litter mates, but also the boldest. She has a very soulful look in her eyes when she watches me. She's absolutely beautiful and a perfect feline.



## **How we got from there to here...**

Phoebe came to me on September 5, the day after I picked up her three litter mates. She was the smallest, but clearly the most sociable. She's always been very brave, though shy in new situations. All her siblings would hiss at me when I'd approach. When I put her into the cage that first day, they hissed, she looked at them all, then looked back at me and hissed. As if she thought, "oh, so this is what we do". However, Phoebe's hissing was never accompanied by the fearful behavior of the others. She'd hiss when I reached for her, but it was absolutely meaningless.

Physically Phoebe is short with a long body and a plump belly. She LOVES to eat dry food or canned. She's very food motivated, so we got to be friends right off the bat. She also loves to stalk "prey". I introduced them to the Cat Dancer toy after a few days and she proved to be *very* fast and good at catching that "bug". Once everyone was clearly 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>**



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Phoebe has always been very bold and determined to reach her goal. She adores playing with her litter mates and is sometimes quite fierce with them. If she gets clobbered, she jumps right back up and attacks in kind. She loves toys and will play on her own if everyone else is sleeping. She very, very fast probably because she has a low center of gravity. She loves the cat dancer toy and in fact, when we're all playing and she catches it in her mouth, she actually walks off with it - she will actually growl if one of the others tries to get a toy away from her. It's really cute.

Phoebe has a darling tendency to roll over. She'll grab a toy, tuck in her head and somersault right over it, then roll around chewing on it. That she clearly does on purpose, but she also sometimes rolls over backward unintentionally and even sometimes sideways.

When she's ready to settle down, she'll climb into my lap, put her front paws on my chest and start kneading. Then she'll reach her nose and one paw up to touch my face. She likes to sniff my face and hair, then she'll finally curl up and settle down to do a little grooming, then nap for a bit. Phoebe drools sometimes when she's really happy. She loves sleeping in a nice cat bed, and I often find her curled up with one of her siblings. She also enjoys a soft blanket.



She's pretty fastidious about the litter box and will often "talk" when she's getting into it. She will go from one to the next until she finds a box that is fairly clean to use. No one likes stepping in someone else's business. I'm home all day and check and scoop as

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needed every few hours during the day. Overnight hours can be a challenge, so I've also added boxes as they've grown. They have 5 litter boxes for the 4 kittens, and we have no "accidents" intentional or otherwise.

I mentioned Phoebe loves to eat. She's always right beside me talking when I dish up the canned food. When I refill dry food dishes, she's right beside me checking out the big container. She eats Purina Kitten Chow very well, and I originally fed them Friskies pate style canned food, but they seemed to tire of it and stopped eating as much. I switched to Fancy Feast and everyone started eating better. She likes Salmon & Shrimp and Seafood Feast a lot, but also eats Chopped Grill dinner.



She loves playing with her siblings, wrestling or chasing each other. She LOVES the cat dancer toy. I run it up the wall or wave it over their heads and she jumps and races around trying to catch it. Recently I've introduced two new toys. One is "Da Bird" which is a long pole with a string and a feathered "bird" at the end. She loves jumping for it and racing around after it when I pull it across the floor. The other toy she loves lately is a laser cat toy. She does that little kitty clicking thing they do when they're watching a bird. It's adorable! She also does that with the cat dancer and da bird. One thing to be aware of about Phoebe is that she rolls around playing with her "catch". She has become entangled in the string from Da Bird toy and I've needed to help her get untangled. This could be very dangerous if she were alone. Toys with strings should be put



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out of her clutches unless you're with her. The wire of the cat dancer toy is stiff enough it hasn't presented any problems.

Over the past two months, I've brought visitors to meet them and play. Phoebe watches at first until we sit down and grab a cat dancer toy. I always give new people or visitors a cat dancer toy to entice the kittens, and they come up to play and sniff the new person. She's always been interested in new things, so she's one of the first to adjust. We've been rehearsing being in a new environment this week (post Thanksgiving). I carry her and her siblings one at a time upstairs to my cat Theodore's room. When I carry Phoebe out of her room, she's very curious and looking all around as we pass through the rooms. She'll be shy and a little scared in a new place and with new people at first, but she should warm up fairly quickly. Using food and toys to encourage her friendship will be very helpful. It's also helpful to sit on the floor or at her level initially so she doesn't feel intimidated.



### **Her Ideal New Home...**

When I write that Phoebe is a perfect feline, I mean that she has very strong feline traits. From her beautiful, dark tabby markings to her absolute focus when stalking prey (toys), she behaves like a cat. She loves human companionship and needs plenty of affection, but it will need to be on her terms. She needs someone who will understand

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that stalking prey and catnaps and checking out new scents and sounds are very important to her. When she's ready for cuddles, she'll either be settled down in her bed, or come to get into your lap when you settle down. She might also just curl up next to you.

She probably will love to spend time outside if it's a safe space. She needs a safe home with someone who will look out for her and give her a nice bed and special places to watch out the window and curl up for catnaps.

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### **Videos with Phoebe:**

**Curious Phoebe - <https://youtu.be/Vk3xWOVQfzs>**

**Playing with Rose - <https://youtu.be/wShtwevc5xA>**

**First Cat Dancer play time - [https://youtu.be/MoJm\\_WKwPcM](https://youtu.be/MoJm_WKwPcM)**

