

Rose

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/rose.pdf**

Rose is beautiful and sweet with the occasional thorn.

In a Nutshell

Rose came to me bold and hissing to make certain I knew she didn't want to like me. However, she was intrigued with everything around her, despite being a little afraid. Her curiosity got the best of her and now she wants to follow me everywhere. She hates when her siblings are being cuddled in my lap or when I'm playing with anyone else.

She's possessive, very loving and demands all the attention and toys.



How we got from there to here...

Rose came to stay with me along with two of her three litter mates on September 4. When I first met her in the cat carrier she hissed at me. She was scared and not in the least interested in being handled, however, she was also obviously very curious about what was happening and her surroundings.

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When I got them home and in the cage with food, water and litter box, she started to get better. She'd still hiss at me, but I was able to reach in and grab the scruff of her neck so I could pull her out and hold her. I made sure to pick her up and hold her (and the others) every few hours during the day. It took a little time, but she got used to it. That coupled with little bits of canned food treats a few times a day, and she started to relax and come to the front of the cage. I introduced them to the Cat Dancer toy after a few days and that also helped the progress. After she stopped hissing at me, I started giving her (them) one quarter of a 3 oz can of food once in the morning and again in the evening. Eventually she started coming to me rather than me needing to pull her out to hold her.



It didn't take long for Rose to start purring for me. She loved to be petted, but was also a very active kitten. She really wanted to run around and play and chase things. The day after Rose arrived, I picked up the fourth sibling, Phoebe. She was also very brave and reasonably sociable, so I started letting the girls out to play while the boys, still too shy for me to pick them up easily, stayed in the cage and watched. There's no better motivation than realizing that the girls are having more fun. The boys came along quickly after that. When I could tell they were enthusiastic about and responsive to the cat dancer

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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>

When I'd go in to play with them, Rose would immediately come over to me and climb onto my lap to play. She didn't like anyone else to get into my lap, so she'd either bite them, or she'd reach out a paw, pull my hand to her and bite my finger. She could be playing anywhere in the room or with any of the others, but as soon as one of them came and got into my lap, she'd be right there to defend her territory. To say Rose is possessive is to merely state a fact. She gets along fine with the others, but she is very jealous of me and also of toys.



Rose is extremely active and although occasionally will walk, most of the time she's trotting or running around. She's pretty wild when she's playing and will jump for a toy and slam into a wall or piece of furniture, often just going right on without stopping. She has a hard time settling down. Even if she's alone with me, she will sit in my lap and play, but often when I try to pet her, she'll bite my fingers. It really seems she considers this

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playful affection, but it can be exasperating. She's better now, because she knows I don't want her to do it. When I tell her "no", she will stop, but forgets almost immediately. She seeks approval and affection, and she really wants to be loved. If I get angry with her, she can tell and it's apparent she's remorseful. As I said, she's gotten better and I believe can become even more so with continued correction.

Rose is pretty fastidious about the litter box, so I've kept it very clean in order to prevent any incidents outside the box. I'm home all day and check and scoop as 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.

About a month after they'd been here, they started to show signs of wanting to explore beyond the door to their room (which is our guest bedroom bathroom). I opened it up for them so they could have the run of both spaces (bathroom and bedroom). They loved it. They would always come out to play with cat dancer or to get in my lap for cuddles when I'd sit down on the floor. After another week or so when I'd move the cat dancer up onto the bed and they seemed to feel it was a safe space, we were able to move up onto the bed for cuddle time. I find that waiting for them to express interest or desire is a good guide for minimizing stress.



Rose on the chair - meeting my cat Theodore the first time.

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Rose is not very food motivated, but she does eat. She eats Purina Kitten Chow dry food, and I originally fed her Friskies pate style canned food. She wouldn't really eat it and because she's so petite, I switched to Fancy Feast, which she eats pretty well. 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 soft toys that she can chew on and furry mouse toys. She loves the cat dancer toy because it's like a bug flying around. 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's amazing when she jumps and can catch that bird right out of the air. The other toy is a laser cat toy. She does that little kitty clicking thing they do when they're watching a bird and she stalks it and jumps very high to catch it.

She can be a talker! She can be wandering around or playing with a toy and chattering away. She also sometimes talks when she gets into the litter box. (I think this is because when she first arrived and would use the box while I was with them, I'd always say "Good girl Rose" to reinforce the positive behavior.)



Rose in front

Rose doesn't like being closed in a cat carrier. She'll try to run right out when she realizes I'm going to close the door. Even though I tend to take the carrier into her room and

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let her play inside (which she enjoys), when I finally shut the door with her inside, she struggles to get out.

Rose has become an escape artist. Because she wants to follow me everywhere and because she's so curious about everything, she's taken to darting out the door to their room every time I open it. She knows I'm going to pick her up and return her, so now she tries to keep out of my reach. Luckily there's a long hallway from her room to anywhere else, so she hasn't been near an exterior door.



Over the past two months, I've brought visitors to meet them and play. 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. Rose has always been quick to come play with the toy and greet the newcomer. She will even accept being petted by someone she's just met.

We've also 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 Rose out of her room, she struggles to get out of my arms so she can run around the house. She will be scared in a new place and with new people at first, but I think she'll come around quite quickly. She's play motivated, so using that to encourage her friendship will be useful. It's also helpful to sit on the floor at first at her level so she doesn't feel intimidated.

Her Ideal New Home...

Rose is a wonderful girl who will be devoted to her new people. She needs someone who will be patient about teaching her what behavior is acceptable and what isn't. Frankly, she probably needs someone who finds cat quirks or neurosis to be adorable. She will want to be in the thick of things, so having a safe home where she can run around and explore without causing trouble will be important. She needs lots and lots of love and attention. She's also very energetic, and needs a place where she can play hard and wild. Rose is a true neurotic feline with an enormous capacity to love.

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Videos with Rose:

Playing with sister Phoebe -<https://youtu.be/wShtwevc5xA>

With brother Riley - <https://youtu.be/1zWqiQ8YiJM>

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

