



Shamrock Shake 302709: What to Expect

Shamrock Shake is a graduate of the Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home. Shamrock Shake is a social kitty who enjoys exploring and playing with toys. His favorite activities are chasing wand toys, lounging on a cat scratcher, and hanging out with other kitties. Shamrock Shake will need a home that can provide him with both physical and mental enrichment to keep him happy.

Shamrock Shake was transferred from a shelter in Texas, and we do not have much history on him. When he first arrived, he displayed fearful, avoidant behavior towards the staff. As he acclimated to the shelter environment, his behavior changed from fearful/avoidant to frustration. The frustrated behavior displayed itself as him wanting to constantly come out of his kennel to run and play. The shelter environment was not conducive to meeting his enrichment needs so it was decided to then place him in the Behavior Modification program. With the larger kennel space, access to windows, and lots of opportunities to play we set out to learn more about him and help him thrive in a shelter environment.

Shamrock Shake acclimated very quickly to the BMOD program. The environment provides bigger kennels for each cat, their own window to look out of and multiple climbing structures for him to climb. It became clear that what Shamrock Shake needed to make him happy was more space and increased enrichment. He loves all kinds of toys, feather ones, tunnels, and anything he can pounce on. As we increased his enrichment, and the ability for him to do normal cat things, his frustrated behavior decreased very quickly. He now regularly greets us when we enter the room, seeking out attention and leaning in for pets. He also showed an interest in meeting other kitties and playing with them. He now lives in a communal room with other cats 24/7 and does well with them. Shamrock would benefit from having a feline friend in his new home.

Shamrock Shake is a playful, active boy and will need a home that can provide him with both physical and mental enrichment. Shamrock Shake may need time to get to know you but once he knows you are his friend he is very sweet and social with people. He'll need a home that can provide him with enrichment that includes a variety of toys, scratching posts to climb on, and windows for bird watching to make him very happy.

Here's how to help Shamrock Shake during your first month together:

Confine Shamrock Shake to one cat-proof room in your house. Provide Shamrock Shake with a litter box, food, water, and a bed. Ensure he cannot get to *inappropriate* hiding spots (under the bed, in a closet, on top of a cabinet, etc.). Provide him with a safe, comfortable hiding place instead like his cat carrier, a hidey-bed, or a large dog crate covered with a blanket. Once he is using the litter box, eating regularly, and coming out of hiding to play with toys, you can start introducing him to the rest of your home.

Enrich his space. Shamrock Shake loves toys, scratching posts, and perches with a window view. Giving him the opportunity to climb, jump, play, scratch and engage in natural cat behavior may help reduce overstimulated behaviors.

Keep a routine. A predictable daily schedule will help Shamrock Shake settle into your home. Give him time to get to know you before introducing him to new people.

Schedule interactive play sessions with him every day. Shamrock Shake needs at least 10 minutes of dedicated play in the morning and again in the evening to alleviate stress and built-up frustration. Try to mimic natural hunting behavior.

Choose a fishing-pole toy and make the toy soar around the room like a bird, engaging Shamrock Shake's attention. Or simulate mouse activity by sliding the end of the toy around on the floor in quick, jerky movements. Allow him to pounce and catch the toy and bat it around. Then start again. End your play session by allowing him to capture the toy.

Practice crate training. Leave his carrier out all the time, so it's just a part of his normal environment. Add a bed and keep the door securely propped open so he can go in and out on his own, making sure the door won't swing shut and frighten him. You can also clicker train him to run into the carrier on cue. Helping Shamrock Shake get comfortable with his carrier will make it easier when it's time to visit the vet.

We're here to help!

We want Shamrock Shake to be successful in his new home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. Call the Behavior Helpline at (503)416-2983 or email Erika at erikas@oregonhumane.org to connect with the Feline Services Manager.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you and Shamrock Shake now and in the future. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns – or just to give an update. We love to see photos and hear how our friends are doing!

Thank you for adopting from the Oregon Humane Society. Congratulations on your new cat!