



Ariel

When I visited the ARL website in search of a companion, I was immediately attracted to Ariel's (fka/Arien) stunning picture, and when I saw her age, 14, it just broke my heart. Right then I decided that she had to come home with me. When I read her profile, it confirmed that her personality and age were a perfect match for my quiet lifestyle, and regular work routine.

I met with her twice, but we did not bond right away. I spoke to her, but she did not look at me; she just wagged her tail once, and looked away, curled up in the far corner of her cage. I actually bonded with the boys next door to her! This did not deter me. She was coming home with me. I knew that in time she would adjust, and hopefully warm up to me. Also, it was noted on her profile, and on her cage that she was having some physical difficulties, so I was completely prepared to be her care-giver.

I met with Karen, and she agreed that my lifestyle would suit Ariel perfectly. Karen prepared me for what to expect, and advised me on Ariel's basic needs. We both agreed that she probably would not need too many toys. Karen also advised me to keep her in one room, and that she may not feel comfortable enough to explore for quite a few days.



What a delightful surprise this little girl has been! When I brought her home, I quickly prepared my bedroom for her, but she was very impatient to get out of her carrier. I expected her to hide under my bed right away, but she practically burst out of her carrier, and she was all over me, purring like crazy, circling, rubbing up against me, and jumping up to meet my hands, so I could pet her. It was amazing! She just covered me with affection. After about 15 minutes, I had to leave my room to get something, and she perked up, and looked out as if to say "What's out there?" Since she seemed interested, I opened the door all the way, and she explored the rest of my apartment, sniffing, and rubbing her scent on everything. After about 20 minutes, she laid down on my front door mat, looked out over my apartment with her head held very high as if to say, "This is MY home!"



She was a little disoriented the first night, but she kept finding me in my bed, and I kept reassuring her that I was there for her. It took a couple of days for her appetite and her body to regulate, but she has been fine ever since. She eats, drinks, and uses her box regularly. I brush her daily, and I transitioned her to IAMS Active Maturity Hairball Care formula to help alleviate her hairballs. She received a clean bill of health during her first vet visit, and the vet tech asked "Is she really 14?"

The most delightful thing about Ariel is she is always surprising me. She is a great "sidekick," but she is also a "love bug," a "personal assistant," and sometimes even a "party animal." She is so surprisingly active, and playful! She absolutely adores her scratch pad from ARL, and all of her toys! She's a real character. She talks a lot, mostly very early in the morning, and with the low raspy voice of an active woman who's seen the world, and who wants to keep goin', because there's only so much daylight to burn, you know!

Ariel has shown me that no matter how old you are, you are never too old to give and to receive love, and to just enjoy life, and most of all, to have fun!

I thought I did this for her, and I was totally prepared to be nothing more than a care-giver. I knew that Ariel would provide me with a renewed sense of purpose, but I never imagined that she would bring ME so much joy! THANK YOU, ARL, for your bringing this very special girl into my life! Our time together may be limited, but it will be so, so cherished.

With kindest regards,
Mary Jo