

# Shelly



While shopping for some materials for work, my husband walked by Shelly's temporary home, a large metal cage in the middle of Aubuchon Hardware (Portland). He likes to stop and talk with cats, having two at home already; he said "normally the cats just ignore me", but there was something different about Shelly. She has absolutely beautiful light blue eyes, soft fur and a gentleness about her. When he went up to Shelly she came right out from hiding to rub up against the bars, purring. He didn't wait long to call me and tell me we were adopting another cat.

I love animals, especially cats. When he called me I felt my heart squeeze, not only for poor Shelly being homeless but for the fact that my husband was deciding she was going to come home with us. About an hour after my husband met Shelly and called me, I left work so I could get a chance to meet Shelly, I instantly fell in love with her too. She was very friendly and her personality (orange) would be the perfect match for our family. I found the paperwork, got the ARL number and made the call so I could adopt Shelly as soon as possible. Back at work I was anxious, excited to leave a little early so I could make it to the animal shelter, get the carrier and then pick Shelly up to bring her home! At the shelter I grabbed some toys for our new girl and then went to Aubuchon to pick her up. A few of the workers at the hardware store were sad to see her go. Once in the car she cried a little which made me want to cry myself, instead, I turned on a talk radio station and she seemed to settle down.

I live in Windham so we had a bit of a drive between picking her up in Portland, bringing her to the shelter in Westbrook and then driving home. When we got home, our other two kitties-both boys- were instantly aware of a new friend. We kept Shelly separated for as long as possible, it lasted about a day before she broke through the door and went out to hunt down her two new roommates. The boys(Shylo and Cotton) are both very friendly cats. They are two years old while Shelly is six so we weren't sure how they would adapt. Instantly, Shelly let them know she was queen of the house and they bowed down to accept that. There were some "serious moments" where she had to remind them who was boss, giving them a good whack upside the head.

Weeks later, Shelly is best buds with the boys. She likes to chase them around, bully them and sleep with them.

During her transition with the male cats she was also getting use to the idea of having a toddler around. I am pleased to see how quickly she adapted to my son, Shelly is such a wonderful addition to our family. She desperately seeks attention from everyone, liking her back to be rubbed until she is rolling on the ground, she is not afraid of house visitors and she is always willing to help out with cleaning, cooking and getting into trouble with the boys and my son.

Thank you so much for the help you gave when we were adopting Shelly!