Dean's Care Notes

Dean would do best in a home with a lot of room and things to do. He might prefer being the only cat in the household, but a confident, playful, and energetic cat to wrestle with may also work out for him with a proper slow introduction.

Feeding Needs

Dean is currently on a mix of Purina ProPlan DM (Dietetic Management) kibble and wet food
He is offered ½ can of wet food and ⅛ cup of kibble for breakfast, ⅛ cup of kibble for lunch, and ½ can of wet food and ⅛ cup of kibble for dinner

You are not required to keep Dean on this diet. We ask that he be offered approximately 310 k/cal per day. He is quite energetic and does not gain weight easily, so to keep him at a healthy weight for donation, he needs more food than you'd expect. He is required to stay above 10 pounds in order to continue donating.

I believe he would do well with an automatic feeder for his kibble, if that is something that would be easier for you.

Feeding Behavior

While in the colony, we managed his overstimulation around feedings by separating him from the other cats while food was being prepared. When left in the colony, he would guard the door and get into fights with the other cats waiting for their food. He has escalated this once, when he redirected his attention to the person who grabbed him to stop him from attacking another cat and bit them.

He may do best in an environment with no other cats to compete with for food.

He gets distracted while eating and usually takes several breaks to walk off or run around before returning to his bowl. He eats kibble readily, but wet food he is more particular about. He prefers to lick up wet food rather than taking bites. The canned food he is on is a pâté style, so it is easy to add water and make a paste for him, but I suggest keeping this in mind while choosing snacks, enrichment, or choosing a new diet.

Medications

He should receive two Lysine chews per day. His Lysine chew can be torn apart into kibble-sized pieces and added to his dry food at breakfast and dinner, or given to him as a treat. This is to prevent and manage Herpes flare-ups.

The Laxitone should be put on his kibble twice a week (Monday and Thursday), about ¼-½ tsp. This is to prevent hairballs and allow the hair to pass through his system.

These medications are subject to change, this is what he is currently prescribed.

Play/Exercise Requirements

Dean is very active, but he is able to entertain himself with the right resources. The main thing we lack in the Colony setting is room for him to run. Ball toys he can push around and chase, toys on a track, kickers, and soft catnip toys are the kinds he has had access to and enjoyed.

If he has access to areas to jump and rest up high, he would be very entertained by having toys set up that he can knock over and chase or just watch from above. Though this means if you have decor that you would prefer he not mess with, those areas will need to be blocked off.

There are several automatic electric toys he may enjoy that don't require action from you, but I do suggest they be used with supervision. There are some styles with moving strings or fake bugs. Things that move at random are the kind of toys he would have fun chasing.

He has loved the kicker toys he has been able to play with, but he does scratch and destroy them over time. I have only provided him with relatively small ones, but he might like wrestling with a toy that's about the size of him. I suggest keeping an eye on the toys and taking them away if he starts to rip into the stuffing. I have not seen him attempt to eat any toy stuffing, but I wouldn't put it past him.

He may do well with a cat wheel! It takes some time to introduce cats to the use of a wheel, but I think he may be an eager user if he had one.

Warning: I would not recommend leaving Dean unsupervised with access to strings or silvervine sticks. He will chew the silvervine into splinters, swallow some pieces, then throw up. He has a strong interest in strings and I worry he may ingest them and cause a foreign body if he is able to.

Litter Box Habits

While in the colony he has been very good about always using the litter box. I have never seen him use the Litter Robot, so I have to assume he prefers the litter box. He is used to clay litter. I suggest having a large litter box with a lid, to prevent him throwing

litter over the edges, and a litter catching rug in front of it, just to keep the mess contained. We have removed the doors from our litter boxes, so if you would prefer to keep the door on, you may need to show Dean how to use it.

He may do better if he has access to a second litter box, as that is what he has had in the colony. He is also used to having his litter boxes cleaned twice a day, so I am unsure of how he will tolerate a messy litter box.

Triggers/Behavior management

Likes: Puzzle feeders, hanging toys, silvervine sticks, kicker toys, tearing up cardboard, soupy wet food, ear rubs, ear cleaning, neck and cheek scratches
Dislikes: Being held/restrained, nail trims, aggressive petting

I will note that his behaviour is likely to change as he settles into a larger environment. He has a lot of pent up energy with nowhere for it to go in the colony room, so having a larger area to run around and play will help with that.

Dean is easily overstimulated by frustration. When he is feeling that way, his tail tends to be the best tell, as he will wag it aggressively, moving it like a rattle when he's feeling a lot of feelings. He gets upset when he is blocked from going somewhere he wants to go, or when he is picked up and taken away from something he wants. Usually, he will be very vocal about this, hard stare, then swat.

If you do need to hold Dean, I suggest a 'football carry'. With Dean's body resting on your side, put your hand between his front legs to carry his front half, and use your arm helping support his weight while pressing his body to your side. He tends to wiggle and try to scratch his way out of more comfortable holds, or slap at the face of whoever is carrying him.

Do not teach him that hands are toys! Do not play with him with your hands in a way that teaches him that attacking hands is okay and fun. He will use this knowledge for evil. He will be more likely to bite and swat at hands because he thinks it is a game.

Blood Donation

It is up to the adopter to decide if they would like to keep Dean in the blood donor program. We would appreciate him continuing to donate blood, but it is your choice. The program does come with benefits for donors.

Free benefits include: Routine vaccinations, Heartworm testing & preventative, Flea/tick preventatives, Bloodwork, urinalysis and fecal tests as covered in the screening

process, Preventative health examinations, and a full annual physical exam by a licensed veterinarian

If you would like him to continue donating, he is required to be kept indoors, and housed without being in contact with any cats that go outside, are unvaccinated, or have not been FELV/FIV tested.

He would be medicated at home before a donation appointment to keep him calmer. Dean eats his pills well in a ‘meatball’, a small amount of wet food used as a pill pocket. A plan for at-home medicating can be designed with the Blood Bank Coordinator.

Home Introduction

I suggest having everything he needs (litter box, food, water) in a single room for the first week or so to let him settle into a smaller safe area, ideally this would be where you want his ‘safe space’ or a room you would use if you ever needed to keep him secluded in the future.
After a couple of days, if he is seeming to settle into the single room well, let him walk around other areas while supervised. Try to play in the areas you will likely be playing in, show him the windows he can watch out of, and note any areas you may need to block off or redecorate in order to keep him out of trouble.
If all is going well after a few more days and you feel confident that he cannot access anything you do not want him to, you can transition him to free-roaming the house.

Dean may do best as the only cat in the household. If you do have other cats, they should be large, confident, and playful. Dean seems to want to wrestle, but our other colony cats are not into that kind of play. If your cats don’t like playing chase and play-fighting, or don’t know how to set boundaries with other cats, Dean would not be a good fit for your home.
If you are going to be introducing Dean to other cats in the household, I suggest keeping Dean in his room to settle for at least 2 weeks. A slow introduction will allow the cats to become accustomed to each other before they meet, reducing the likelihood of fighting once Dean is allowed free reign. In that time, try feeding the cats on either side of a door so they can get used to each other's smells. If this goes well for several days, place a barrier (like a baby-gate) between the cats so they can see each other without reaching each other. Dean should be supervised during all introductions, especially after the barrier is removed and the cats are allowed to interact with each other. Hopefully, with time and patience, he will make friends with the new cat or cats.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me! If Dean does not end up fitting well with your home, we will adopt him back and rehome him. Just let us know!

Products:

You are **not** required to purchase any of these products, but if you need ideas, this is a place to start.

Water fountain: Same as what we have in the colony

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0F5B8MH2W/ref=sspa_dk_detail_3?pd_rd_i=B0F5B8MH2W&pd_rd_w=xNKGt&content-id=amzn1.sym.3bc66c0a-cc61-4816-aa2d-e53327eaddb6&pf_rd_p=3bc66c0a-cc61-4816-aa2d-e53327eaddb6&pf_rd_r=H58WFNJF4GQEF79GNEA0&pd_rd_wg=qpf7E&pd_rd_r=5cded8e5-3b5a-46af-947e-f0093cc89571&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9kZXRhaWxfdGhlbWF0aWM&th=1

Litter Box: Same as our colony

https://www.amazon.com/Catit-Jumbo-Hooded-Cat-Litter/dp/B003RQVGKC?ref_=ast_sto_dp&th=1

Puzzle Feeders: Styles he has used

https://www.amazon.com/Petstages-Nina-Ottosson-Buggin-Puzzle/dp/B0872J3XV9/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=3NWJZZFSUBS3B&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.X4YJ62Gp1ragOlWDYvarC7cdmn8nK65Qlx_rksElfhEB3bpCCASt-Cy7sQr4S4c4PRaWnb8pjsxZwAEO2xVkf9ceoY3fcxpqMoa58nkqI5TEIjQy7JvEf_2ancEkAyG2v5S8-nkkPrz2wa3pU36P0LNQNpV1zmk2zPOTPKbwKWMKnzWajVJwj9zELFnvZPqHBSPo0GXq3j4f-AS6kxtm01-ZlPmDF6Rs3V58E36BGe2Q5hghiyF1X9FPs5kAh8P8bIL0znE3nki_wGYjS0AbWpJbWt9eS2wg1gtSlxfR3r0.AtFb7xoNR43yqDiKA2VwGMd0Q7awYtSQa5gMCNo-QQo&dib_tag=se&keywords=puzzle%2Bfeeder&qid=1792432855&s=pet-supplies&sprefix=puzzle%2Bfeeder%2Cpets%2C134&sr=1-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&th=1
https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/B0H5CHXYLC?pd_rd_plhdr=t&hsa_cr_id=0&qid=1792433349&sr=1-3-5a5562f9-fdfd-4101-9f9d-d76aa9998432&i=pets&aref=W0hqH7CBuR&_encoding=UTF8&ref_=sbx__sbtcd2_asin_2_title&pd_rd_w=oWZ7O&content-id=amzn1.sym.90f77631-9599-4fe0-95f8-a40adfe1c762%3Aamzn1.sym.90f77631-9599-4fe0-95f8-a40adfe1c762&pf_rd_p=90f77631-9599-4fe0-95f8-a40adfe1c762&pf_rd_r=M1K2P6TVY0TG1YV8JH0R&pd_rd_wg=Qh0ng&pd_rd_r=1674b6e6-8310-4fe4-805e-c2c771d03efe&th=1

Window seats: There are many different kinds, you could definitely find one that fits your style better, but here is a suggestion

https://www.amazon.com/Window-Hammock-Saving-Mounted-Premium/dp/B07MH7WTSN/ref=sr_1_27?crid=2H2HOJ7LOH8O0&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.iKsmlbkKL2aHM0VpneN1CxdUFXwZ6cN3Bhsd-XfjSAWPBWvqxw8sMEol-gvZRSGjXR6Oa-eK0lN0Cy7FbCRN2TiWas3p_SZuxbywXHXZlmILp0cKmHanaWNhhlK_V6gb8t-Z1cimNbINugwUxs1hrGwmzjbdiMuxo6tYL6MYqoxQ62mn9B8WItnfmYfoMQbEIrk39f9PKRgRbEDgSkjT4cNfhgjIiJge7DXd7xHz0GY8vu7ABkZ3bWvl0gsqiXo5CwV0u85g-fhNwgK1us8d0SAXG-omVE5CJ_gaZjzTO7s.z8ZK6zunNNasIushteonKnCY5g3ZZazzK7GoTp6bStU&dib_tag=se&keywords=window%2Bseat%2Bfor%2Bcats&qid=1792428054&sprefix=window%2Bseat%2Caps%2C155&sr=8-27&th=1