

Written by Leo's owner:

"I was so excited to get my F1 Bengal boy...I waited months and thought I was fully prepared for what was to come but I wasn't. I knew he wouldn't love me right away but I was surprised when I picked him up to find him hissing and cocking his head back and spitting at me like a little snake! I immediately asked the breeder about it and I was told it was normal. Ok weird it was not mentioned before. Then the next few weeks were hell. I had to take him to the animal hospital because he would not eat, drink, or use the litter box the first few days I had him and he was TOO small.

When taken to the vet he was half the weight that the breeder told me he was. After being given fluids and special food he started eating but the litter box then became a completely separate issue he would usually pee in the box but anything else...he would go in his water bowl or the tub or the sink or on the side of the toilet. Sometimes I would accidentally leave clothes out or the closet open and he would go on my clothes. I was told he was fully litter trained.

Four weeks went by and he never warmed up to me, or anyone. I tried to bond (forcefully--wrapping him in a blanket and holding him and talking to him and trying to play for hours daily) but I was just a big bad scary monster to him and he would hide all day and hiss and try to scratch every time I came near him or even looked in his direction sometimes. He wouldn't eat if I was in the room unless I was sleeping.

Sometimes I could hear him playing in the dark at night but never actually saw him playing with my own eyes. I constantly talked to the breeder about his issues...he clearly was not ready or ever really meant to be a house pet. I read about F1s and how they usually don't make good pets for the most of the reasons that I dealt with but this breeder made me believe that their F1s were "different" and made great pets. I knew if things were that bad in the beginning they were only going to get worse and I was extremely concerned about the well being of this small kitten that was forming no attachment to me and having so many problems.

After a month, I wanted to return him. The breeder refused to take him back, they were just concerned about money. SO many lies were told to me so I would pay an extreme amount of money for what I thought was my dream cat. In the end, I was lucky enough to find a sanctuary with the capacity to handle him and give him what he needs which I had to learn the hard way I could never give him..."

"Cheryl I cannot thank you enough I know in my heart this was the right thing to do and now I think I was only meant to have him so that I could bring him to you and he could actually have a chance at happiness I don't think he would've ever made a good house pet to anyone and could've ended up in a shelter and possibly euthanized for his behavior...no words can describe the happiness I feel. Can't wait to visit again and see how well he does there. The work you do there is so amazing, you are seriously changing lives!! I can't believe how much he has transformed, he would sit in my window sometimes too but he would be curled up in the corner hiding and if I came near him he would get defensive and hiss."