

BARN CAT ACCLIMATION

Thank you for adopting a working cat and providing them with a great home!

Relocating feral and outdoor cats is not as easy as physically placing them in their new outdoor home. Cats are territorial and if you simply place them in a new location, they will try to find their way back to where they came from which can put them at risk of injury or illness. This guide will provide tips for how to get barn and working cats acclimated to their new environment.



It is critically important to confine your cat for the first 2-4 weeks in a completely enclosed location.

This could be a room inside a barn or a large dog crate. This is to familiarize them with their new environment and create positive associations so they don't immediately run away.

In their enclosure make sure to provide water, a disposable litter box, and a place to hide at all times. The location to hide is important so that when you change the litter box and provide more food and water, the cat will not feel threatened.



To build a bond with you as their caretaker, only put down food when you are in the room and take it away when you leave. Keeping a reliable schedule by providing yummy food will help build trust and encourage them to stick around.

Never force physical contact on your barn cats as this can make them feel threatened and elevate their stress level, but reading to them quietly or talking to someone on the phone while you are around them can get them cat used to your voice and presence.



After the initial confinement period, open the door to their enclosure at night and then leave so that they can explore their new surroundings.

Do not release your cat after the confinement period if it is currently raining because this will wash their scent away. Leave the enclosure as is for another week so they can get back in if they want. Continue to provide food and water in the same location, and after a few weeks you can gradually move it to a new place.



Cats are territorial and will maintain a home base once their scent has been established. Sometimes they disappear for a day or two but will return for food.

Cats cannot survive on mousing alone and will always require daily food and water for nourishment.

Some barn cat caregivers keep litter pans inside their barns, but they are not always used.



Two is better than one! It is recommended to adopt two working cats at the same time so that the move is less traumatic and they are able to adjust to their new environment easier with a trusted companion.



**Cheyenne
ANIMAL
SHELTER**