



Barn Cat Buddies Protocol Safe & Successful Relocation of Feral Cats

Thank you for becoming a safe haven for a feral cat that has no where else to go. Please understand that cats in this program can be **FERAL** which means **WILD or UN-FRIENDLY** or unsocial due to lack of human socialization and do not do well in a shelter environment. Feral cats are **NOT PETS** and have no interest in human interaction.

Why This Protocol is Important

- 1- Cats do better in pairs. This is especially true if there are no other cats at the facility when they first move in.
- 2- Cats need to be confined in a safe place with food/water and litter box for a minimum of three (3) weeks. Occasionally very wild cats will run away following the 3 week protocol but they will know where the food is should they decide to return. The good news is they'll never reproduce.

3 Types of Safe Confinement:

1. *Crating:* For successful relocation of your barn cat buddies, a minimum period of 3 week crating is necessary. Crates are those roomy dog cages people use when they potty train their dogs. It needs to be large enough for food, water and a litter box. For adult cats, one crate per cat is usual and customary. If cats are small in size and are familiar with each other they could share a roomy cage. Each situation is unique. If your crate is large having a cardboard 'hut' with straw in it makes a nice hiding place for your cat(s). Covering crates with sheets gives cats an additional sense of security.
2. *A quiet Horse Stall:* All four walls need to be totally enclosed with no holes or gaps in the walls so the cat cannot escape before the 3-weeks.
3. *An Office:* Since cats can escape through holes in the office walls we would ask that you inspect the office before you receive your buddies. Office doors must remain closed during the animals' rehoming so if your office gets lots of public traffic, we would not suggest this as an alternative. *Signs on doors help to alert employees.

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TEMPERATURE ISSUES

Please be aware that any area a cat is housed must be cool enough all day long in summer and warm enough in the winter to be an appropriate confinement area. If you do not have that at this time, please wait until the season changes.

* Litter boxes do not have to be the plastic kind. They can be cardboard liners that soda cans from the grocery store. These make-shift litter boxes can be lined with newspaper and then clay litter sprinkled on top. If your feral has trouble understanding the litter box concept, place dirt and grass in the box to help associate this area with the place to 'go'. Aluminum lasagna pans also work well.

FEEDING: Alley Cat Allies suggests adding canned food to the cats' dry food during initial crating/rehoming period. Following the release of your barn cat buddy, canned food mixed with dry is added insurance for their sticking around. You can gradually decrease the wet if you chose over the course of a week or two after release. As always, have water readily available.

The day before letting your Barn Buddies out: Consider where you will be leaving food and water for the animals so they know where it is and can get to it easily. Having food and water elevated on a hay bale or in a loft will help the cats get to their food and not give other animals like pet dogs a chance to help themselves. We truly thank you for helping this forgotten population of felines.