

# How to Care for Your Barn Cat

## Thank you for making the decision to adopt a Barn Cat!

In the past these animals did not have a safe adoption outcome from shelters. Often, people believed that feral cats were a nuisance or negatively impacted homes and businesses. What new research has shown is that it's quite the opposite! Barn cats provide free labor for millions of land and business owners around the country as “working cats” that control pest and rodent populations.

## Adjustment Period

First and foremost, thank you for adopting your new working cat! Like any new pet or animal that you bring home, there is an adjustment phase for the animal to acclimate to their new environment. Usually, for barn cats we recommend a transitional period that teaches the cat that their new location is now their home and can be trusted as a reliable source of food and comfort. Typically, 2-4 weeks is enough time for an animal to associate to a new property and caretaker. You can use a small, enclosed room, crate, or pen to keep the cats contained for 2-4 weeks so they get used to the sights and smells of their new home. You should include food, water, and a litter box for them to use while contained. Often, barn cats or outdoor cats will adjust to a litter box during their confinement period but it's not necessary to keep one after their release.

**Barn cats don't require a lot of upkeep and effort but their presence on your property comes with a lot of reward!**

## Upkeep and Care

One of the few necessities for your Barn Cat will be a consistent supply of food. Feral cats like to hunt their prey so they will chase mice and other rodents as well as snakes and birds. A portion of their diet will be sourced through hunting but caretakers should provide a small amount of dry cat food in order to make sure they have necessary vitamins and nutrients for them to live a long, contented life. You should view the food as supplemental and make sure not to overfeed them if you would like them to continue to act as “pest control.” In addition to small quantities of food, barn cats will also need a clean water source. We recommend providing your working cats with fresh water daily- possibly at multiple locations around your property.

## Need Help?

These animals are pretty easy to transition, require minimal effort, and the process is hard to mess up! Sometimes the cats that you take home will move on to another location or home and that's fairly common. Cats are independent creatures and if your new working cat moves on and you would like to adopt another, please just let us know. Feel free to reach out with any other questions or concerns that you have regarding your new barn cat:

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