

# BARN CATS KINGDOM RESCUE

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## About Barn Cats

Occasionally, feral cats enter the shelter but cannot be safely returned to their environment after being spayed or neutered. These are poorly socialized cats who do not appreciate being handled by humans. Traditional adoption is not an option for them to leave the shelter alive. However, becoming a Working Cat/Barn Cat is a safe, humane way for the cats - who in previous years have been euthanized - to live a full and satisfying life.

Barn cats, also known as working cats, are a great way to rid your home of pesky rodents and bring love to your homestead. Healthy, sterilized cats need barn homes! These cats are feral (wild) and need a home at a farm, horse stable, or other suitable outdoor environment with shelter. All the cats have been sterilized and vaccinated against rabies, and now need an outdoor home where they can live out their lives.

Barn cats will help catch field mice—but they'll also make a huge difference with problems with moles, mice, rats, squirrels, snakes and can also help gardens by getting rid of pesky bugs. Got Mice? **Adopt a "Working Cat"!**

## Things to Know about Barn Cats

### Does the dog get along with the barn cats?

With just a few simple efforts on your part, your dogs and cats will respect each other. Maybe even eventually be friends. In fact, the cats do all the training themselves, with severe hisses and arched backs that warn the dog they are not to be messed with. Even tiny kittens that are just a month old will do this and actually scare the dogs.

We recommend being around your dogs and cats the first several times they are introduced to

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make sure all animals are protected. Of course we can help the process along as well introduce the dog to the kittens the right way. Make sure the dog understands the cat's care about and value, then most dogs will respect it.



## **Do you feed your barn cats?**

This answer will vary from farm to farm, but you should expect to provide cat food at least during the coldest times of the year. Yes, cats love hunting, but we recommend always making sure a dish in the barn has some food in it for the cats, in case they're having trouble finding rodent meals.

## **What do barn cats need?**

Barn cats are independent by nature and require the least attention of any farm critter around here, but we do provide a few important things for them. Basically, they need a water dish, food dish and access to food, soft bedding (or old blankets and pillows), and occasional toys are fun.

# BARN CAT TIPS

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## Tips for Bringing Your Barn Cat Home:

- It's critical that the cats be **confined in a large crate or building for 2 – 4 weeks** so they imprint on their new home, to prevent them from just running away.
- The **cats must have a hidey box** in their acclimation crate, or places to hide if in a barn or shed. Even a card board box will work. Place the opening of the box to the back of the carrier so the cat is hidden.
- If using a crate, place it where the cats will be living (in their sheltered area).
- Feral cats can be contained together, as long as they are truly feral. Don't do this with social cats!
- It's recommended to have at least two working cats because a single cat will likely leave to look for a friend.
- **Be ready for a messy crate.** Wood or paper litterbox pellets will help reduce the mess.
- **Feed the cats wet food during the acclimation period.** Think of the 2 – 4 week confinement period as a “honeymoon” for you and your new cats...you are “wooing” your new working cats and showing them what a great home this is!
- Feed at a regular time and use the same “call” when you feed the cats, so they will learn to come for food when they hear you after they have been released.
- **Please return the cages that you picked up the cats in as soon as possible.** We need these cages for our program. We are a non-profit group, and it's expensive to replace the cages. Please help us keep costs down!