



## Working Cat Acclimation Tips Guide

Thank you for considering adopting from our Barn Cat/Working Cat Adoption Program! Below are a few tips for a successful acclimation period (2 week minimum) which will help them adjust to their new home and lead to a successful relationship with your new pet!

What does the adopter need to provide in the way of supplies?

- Extra large dog crate or enclosed room, such as a tack room or shed. An area with supplemental heat and a flap door is ideal. FCAS can **loan** a crate.
- Cat food – dry is essential; wet food is a bonus.
- Large **HEATED** water bowl and water.
- Food bowls – separate bowls for wet and dry are ideal.
- Litter – any kind and small litter pan.
- Soft blanket or cat bed– cats like soft places.
- A cardboard box, cat carrier, cat den, or cat house for hiding.
- Cover the top of the acclimation cage with a blanket or sheet.

Any other helpful tips about the acclimation process?

- The cats need to bond with their caretaker. Regular interactions will help create this bond.
- The cats need a regular feeding schedule; both morning and night.
- The litter box needs to be cleaned every day.
- Water needs to be kept clean (as well as added to).
- You can feed the cat(s) wet food specifically in the evening during the acclimation process. Continue that practice after the cage door is open to help encourage them to return for the evening feeding.
- You may be able to tell how well the acclimation period is going by how the cats react when they open the door to feed them. If the cats are settling in comfortably, they will brush up against the feeder's arm. But don't worry, this may *never* happen with really feral cats.
- Cats like toys, especially the kind of longer rope or feather toys that allow them to interact with/play with you from a distance.

How do you recommend handling the "release" of the cats?

- After two weeks in the crate, tie open the door of the cage in the morning after feeding the cats.
- Continue to feed the cats in bowls in the cage, change the water, and change the litter regularly.
- If you have a barn/shelter that you can close up at night, please do so. It will help protect your cats from predators.
- After three weeks, remove the crate, but continuing feeding in the same area and keep a litter pan accessible.

**Thank you for choosing to adopt your new working cat from FCAS!**