



WORKING CAT TIPS

Think of the 2 - 4 week confinement period as a “honeymoon” phase. You are wooing your new working cats and showing them what a great home this is!



CONFINEMENT

It's critical that the cats be confined in a crate or building for 2 - 4 weeks so they imprint on their new home to prevent them from running away when released. If using an acclimation crate, place it where the cats will be living (in their sheltered area).



“HIDEY BOX”

The cats need a hidey box in their acclimation crate, or places to hide if in a barn or shed. Even a cardboard box will work. Place the opening of the box to the back of the acclimation area so the cat is hidden from you.



COMBINING CATS

Feral cats can be contained together, as long as they are truly feral. Don't do this with social cats!



LITTER & BOWLS

If using an acclimation crate, we recommend a high-sided litter box and non-tip food & water bowls.



FEEDING ROUTINE

Some wet food in addition to dry food will likely be very welcome. Feed at a regular time (morning is best to avoid attracting wildlife) 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. Cats love routine!



RELEASING

When it's time to release the cats, just nonchalantly leave the cage door or barn door open and walk away. The cats may wait to leave till all is quiet.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The cats must be fed daily after being released so they don't go look for food elsewhere. Even just the presence of cats helps deter rodents, so you want to be sure the cats stay around. Food-grade diatomaceous earth sprinkled around the food bowls kills ants, but is nontoxic to the cats and the environment.

When the cats are released, it's not unusual for them to be gone a few days while they are scouting their new territory. Keep feeding them and providing water. Some working cat adopters enjoy using game cameras to observe their cats.