

# RELOCATING BARN CATS



## CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Once you have taken in barn cats, it is important to confine the cats in a crate, garage, shed, or perimeter area for **2 - 4 weeks**. The idea is to give them enough room to become familiar with their new home without permitting them free access to the outdoors. **Confinement is essential and critical to a successful relocation.** Confinement in a large, spacious enclosure allows the cats adjust to the new environment in safety while they become familiar with their new environment.

Within the confinement, include food, water, a litter box and a small cardboard box for the cat to play or hide in. It is important for the cats to come to regard this enclosure as their permanent feeding station before they are permitted to roam freely outside. Make sure the confinement area is located near a place where the cats can hide and continue to be fed once they are released.

## DEVELOP A ROUTINE

Feed the cats canned food at least once a day, and always at the same time; **regular feedings will help them to realize they have a reliable food source.** Always have dry food and water available for the cats.

During the cats' confinement period, the new caregiver must regularly visit the cats to ensure the bonding that is essential for successful relocation. **Speaking to the cats, even if they remain hidden, helps them to overcome their fear of humans.** Don't try to pet or pick up the cat if it's fearful, as this will only add to its anxiety and could result in a scratch or bite.

## READY FOR RELEASE!

After their two-to-four-week confinement period, the cats should be fully acclimated to their new surroundings. At this time any temporary confinement items that were set up can be removed, and cats can be given access to the outdoors. A small opening should be provided so they may come and go whenever they want.

**The cats will likely run and hide when first released, but should reappear in a day or two if enough time was allotted for acclimation.**

## TIPS

- If cats are set free upon arrival, they will attempt to return to their former home and will likely be lost. Confinement is essential during this time period.
- Providing appealing canned food during confinement helps cats to accept their new home.
- The cats may try to find a way out of their confinement area the first day or two, but should settle down once they realize they're safe.
- If a cat escapes from the enclosure during the confinement period, the caregiver should set food and water out, which will encourage the cat to stay close. The new caregiver can sprinkle that particular cat's used litter (specifically feces) around the location. Because cats have a keen sense of smell, this will help lure the cat back.