



Barn Cat Buddies Protocol for Safe & Successful Relocation of Friendly Cats

Thank-you for becoming a safe haven for a cat who has no where to go. Many of the cats in this program are 'FERAL' or 'WILD' but occasionally the cats are simply '**under-socialized**' and are not 'marketing' themselves as house cats and would be happier in a barn/warehouse or similar setting.

In addition to placing under-socialized cats, we do place **friendly cats** who have been in no-kill adoption centers such as Angels of Assisi and are becoming depressed in their cages. We also have placed friendly cats at risk of being destroyed in traditional pounds at the 11th hour.

Our goal is to match cats and barns up as best we can while we pay special attention to the cats at highest risk (ie: depression or potential of being destroyed)

Why This Protocol is Important: Believe it or not, there is a right way and a wrong way to re-home barn cats.

1- Cats do better released in pairs with a BUDDY. This is especially true if there are no other cats living at the facility prior to this new move.

2- Cats need to be confined in a safe, dry place with food/water and litter box for a minimum of three (3) weeks. We have discovered through the years that if cats are released prior to three weeks the tendency for them to run away and never returning is extremely high. Often these animals are killed on the road trying to get 'home' or killed by predators in the process. While occasionally cats will run and not return even after the confinement period, this protocol has a 95% success rate.

4 Types of Safe Confinement:

Crating: For successful relocation of your barn cat buddies, a minimum period of 3 week crating is necessary. Crates are those roomy dog cages people use when they potty train their dogs. It needs to be large enough for food, water and a litter box*. For adult cats, one crate per cat is usual and customary. If cats are small in size and are familiar with each other they could share a roomy cage. Each situation is unique. If your crate is large having a cardboard 'hut' with straw in it makes a nice hiding place for your cat(s). Covering crates with sheets gives cats an additional sense of security.

A quiet Horse Stall: All four walls need to be totally enclosed with no holes or gaps in the walls so the cat cannot escape before the 3-weeks.

An Office: Since cats can escape through holes in the office walls we would ask that you inspect the office before you receive your buddies. Office doors must remain closed during the animals' re-homing so if your office gets lots of public traffic, we would not suggest this as an alternative. **Signs on doors help to alert employees.

Tack Room: Same as above. **Placing a DOOR SIGN outside any relocation room will alert people that CATS are inside.

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TEMPERATURE AND CONFINING: Please be aware that any area a cat is temporarily housed be it a barn or shed must be cool enough in summer and warm enough in winter to be an appropriate 'safe' confinement area. If you do not have that at this time, please wait until the season changes.

* Litter boxes do not have to be the plastic kind. They can be cardboard liners you get from the grocery store that holds beer or soda cans. These make-shift litter boxes are then lined with newspaper and clay litter is sprinkled on top. Aluminum lasagna pans also work well too.

FEEDING: Alley Cat Allies suggests adding canned food to the cats' dry food during initial crating/re-homing period. Following the release of your barn cat buddy, canned food mixed with dry is added insurance for their sticking around. You can gradually decrease the wet if you chose over the course of a week or two after release. As always, have water readily available.

THE DAY BEFORE LETTING YOUR Barn Buddies out: Consider where you will be leaving food and water for the animals so they know where it is and can get to it easily. Having food and water elevated on a hay bale or in a loft will help the cats get to their food and not give other animals like pet dogs a chance to help themselves. If you have dogs that tend to chase cats on your facility, we would like to discuss this with you further to make sure the cats are safe. We truly thank you for helping this forgotten population of felines.

Email: diane@barncatbuddies.org or log www.barncatbuddies.org

The Barn Cat Buddies Program Operates under the Non Profit Status of Angels of Assisi www.angelfofassisi.org 344-8707 ext. 111