

Tips & Suggestions for Successful Relocation



Congratulations on welcoming working cat(s) to your property! Your cat(s) is going to need some time to adjust to their new home. Believe it or not, you can train your cat and help make their transition smooth and comfortable.

FEEDING

Please do not expect your working cat to live on rodents as their only source of food. They will need you to feed them too and **provide a fresh source of water!** A well-fed cat will be a stronger and more successful hunter.

Most cats really like wet food, and using this initially is a good tool to entice them to return home. During the acclimation period (first 3 weeks while cats are in a cage) It's best to **feed the cats twice daily**—once in the morning ($\frac{1}{3}$ cup dry food), and once in the evening ($\frac{1}{3}$ can wet food). The cats do not need a large amount all at once. Provide a fresh bowl of water daily and wash food bowls often to maintain hygiene. **After release outdoors**, you can feed the cats dry food only: $\frac{1}{3}$ cup dry food per cat in the morning and $\frac{2}{3}+$ cup dry food per cat in the evening after they are brought in for the night.

Before feeding, from the start after the cats are setup with you, get into the habit of making a consistent, distinctive dinnertime call (a little bell would work great, or shaking the food or treat container) to help them associate the noise with dinner. Cats love routine, and this will be extremely helpful in calling them in at night once they're released. Cats also love **treats** and most will respond

well and can even be slightly tamed and trained with treats. This helps remind them that humans are good and familiarize them with your presence.

ORIENTATION & RELEASE

Your cat(s) will need to stay confined in their cage for the first 3 weeks. Studies have shown that this, along with the regular feeding schedule, helps them adjust to their new home base, and lessens the likelihood of them immediately taking off as soon as you release them. You will need to clean the litterbox daily during this time. Scoopable litter can be a big help.

If they are housed in a garage, barn, or other outbuilding it helps to release the cat in two stages. After the first 2-3 weeks in their cage, release them into the building, leaving the cage door propped open to allow them to return to it as they wish. Continue your morning and evening feeding routine and keep them in this building for another week before releasing them outdoors.

It's likely that the cat(s) will initially hide, but regular visits, continuing the feeding routine, and attempting to verbally and emotionally bond with the cat can also increase the chances of the cat(s) staying in the area.

When you do release the cat(s), release them **before** they are fed, so that you can utilize feeding to call them back into their night shelter. We recommend bringing them in every evening around dusk, so they are secure at night and safe from the elements, and most importantly, other predators, such as coyotes.

