



CREATING A SUCCESSFUL WORKING CAT PROGRAM
 OPTIONS FOR FERAL AND BEHAVIORALLY CHALLENGED FELINES



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WHY START A WORKING CAT PROGRAM?


- These cats have no other live outcome
- Socialization of adult ferals is extremely difficult and resource intensive
- Working cat programs are inexpensive and easy to start



WHICH CATS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR 'BARN' PLACEMENT?

- Unable to be returned to their original habitat
- Unsited for traditional adoption (feral, under-socialized, unhappy indoors)
- Capable of life in a managed colony (including considerations of physical and mental health and any special needs.)


CATS APA! DOES NOT BARN PLACE:



- Kittens under 16 weeks are sent to foster for socialization
- Declawed cats*
- Geriatric cats*
- Cats who can be returned to habitat or remain in their habitat through conflict resolution
- *However, alternative, creative placement is always an option for any cat who is at risk!*

SHELTERING FERAL CATS
STRESS REDUCTION IS KEY!

- A stressed cat = a sick cat.
- Dedicated quiet room
- Housing considerations (feral cat dens, cover condo up, artificial light cycles)
- Appropriate handling (or lack thereof), including medical treatments - wildlife rehab model
- Feeding considerations (types of food, timing of food)
- Quick turn around time from intake to adoption
- Outdoor habitats always better, but not necessary to begin



"FERAL CAT DENS"
ANIMAL-CARE.COM LIVETRAP.COM

HOUSING FERALS AT THE SHELTER



\$50

HOUSING FERALS AT THE SHELTER



\$700

\$1500

FINDING HOMES FOR WORKING CATS
CATS
WHAT TYPES OF HOMES ARE SUITABLE?

- Farms / Ranches
- Stables
- Warehouses / Factories
- Greenhouses / Nurseries
- Wineries / Distilleries
- Junkyards
- Churches
- Storage facilities
- Shops: Repair shops, woodworking shops, retail stores
- Residential homes



FINDING HOMES: RURAL
LOCATION AND ADOPTER REQUIREMENTS




- Off busy roads
- No recent predation
- Shelter provided
- Daily food and water
- Long term vet care, as needed
- Willingness to confine cats for the relocation period

FINDING HOMES: SUBURBAN



- Garage cats rock!
- Ensure neighborhood is 'cat friendly', HOA rules
- Great fit for cats who are more social

FINDING HOMES: URBAN



- Retrofit space under deck or porch for shelter
- Try to place 'city cats' back to city neighborhoods
- Market to urban areas struggling with rat problems

ADVERTISING TO FIND GOOD HOMES

- Your website - have an online adoption application
- Newspapers
- Flyers, post them anywhere farmers, animal lovers, or equestrians go
- Craigslist
- Equine clubs, publications, trail rides, and events
- Farmer's markets, county fairs, horse shows
- Radio
- NextDoor
- Facebook neighborhood groups

ADOPTION APPLICATION: MUST BE ONLINE!



- Include info on your program and then the application
- Application on your website, easily findable
- Short, simple application

Barn cats looking for work! (Austin Pets Alive!)



Barn cats looking for work!!

When Austin Pets Alive! rescues abused or poorly socialized kitties from the shelter, sometimes we have to consider a non-traditional home placement. These cats are healthy, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and in dire need of a rural outdoor home, such as a barn, stable, garage, or warehouse.

These cats are typically not suitable to be indoor pets and have no desire to be lap cats. These are working cats, former street cats who are used to outdoor life, prefer minimal to no human contact, and who will happily scold to your mouse, chipmunk, or vermin problems for the small cost of a bowl of cat food and water set out daily, and shelter in your garage or barn. And because we spay/neuter and vaccinate these cats prior to them coming to your farm, you never need to worry about endless litters of kittens!

There is no adoption fee for our barn cats!

For more information on how the Austin Pets Alive! barn cat program works, or to adopt a barn cat, please visit <http://www.austinpetsalive.org/about/programs/barn-cat-placement/>

Non-Toxic Pest Control
The eco-friendly, green solution to your mouse, mole, snake, & vermin problems!

No toxins, no chemicals, 100% natural, organic. And as an added bonus, you'll be **SAVING LIVES**.

A kind cat will keep your property rodent free for the rest of his life. Austin Pets Alive! is looking for cats to work on farms, fields, or other areas for health, resistance, and humane pest control.

Because these cats are not available to people, they are not appropriate and are euthanized at shelters. You help make **GREAT** working cats.

- Spayed or neutered
- Vaccinated and healthy
- Microchipped
- No adoption fee

austin pets alive!
Inland North & Up State

Non-Toxic Messaging

- farmers markets
- nurseries/ greenhouses
- keeps rodenticides from entering watersheds and killing raptors
- communities that value organic living

- hang in adoption centers
- mailbox banks
- ask volunteers to print, keep in car, and hang up
- put up flyers anywhere you might shop if you owned 5 acres of land

IN NEED OF WORK...

Experienced Mouser
Seeking F/T Employment and Lodging

Shy and reserved
*Altered, vaccinated, microchipped
*Confine in a barn, shed, or outbuilding
*Needs two square meals a day
*No adoption fee

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MICE IN THE BARN?
We can solve that problem for you the eco-friendly way!

We have lots of healthy, neutered, vaccinated, microchipped working cats available right now with **NO ADOPTION FEE!**

CALL OR EMAIL US! SAFEHOUSEPETS@GMAIL.COM
OR (815) 407-SAFE safehousepets.org

SAFE HOUSE
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

Newspaper ads


- Still effective for rural communities
- Often free to run in unused space

YOUR FRIEND, THE HORSE.

- Every horse barn in the world needs cats.
- Riding clubs, horse shows, fairs, events are all prime marketing opportunities
- Dressage barns, polo clubs, riding school, training barns, police stables




BARN CAT PROGRAMS = MEDIA DARLINGS!



BASTROP COUNTY: Barn cats keep rodents away
© 12:49 a.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2014 | FRODO in Local

How Austin Became America's Largest No Kill City
ARCHIVED - CITY HALL
ANIMAL SHELTER SETS RECORD FOR LIVE OUTCOMES
A second program in a connection with Austin Pets Alive to place feral cats that come to the shelter into adoption as barn cats. "Austin Pets Alive has a larger number of requests for barn cats. When feral cats come to the shelter, we fully vet them so they can go into their barn cat program. It's a win-win situation for everyone," says Carey.

"STUNT PLACEMENTS"



Alex (orange) & Boo (white)

Our kitties are well cared for. They are spayed/neutered & up-to-date on shots. We feed them AM & PM. Feel free to pet them! Thanks for your concerns! :)

HOW TO PLACE THE CATS: RELOCATION PROCESS

best known practices

- Crate kept inside building/barn where cats will live
- Cats confined for 2 to 4 weeks. (2 weeks is minimum, 4 weeks is optimum)
- Feed cats and clean crate daily, plan for mess!
- Feed canned food daily and make a special 'call' to teach the cats the sound of your voice = food
- At the end of 4 weeks, crate door left nonchalantly open for the cats to exit at their will.

THE RELOCATION CRATE

and the art of the Hidey Box



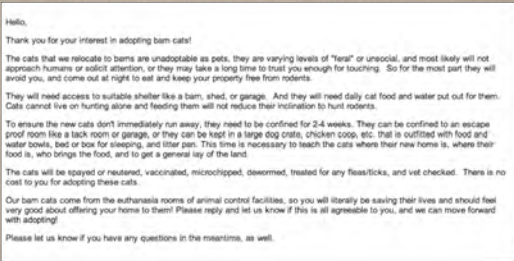
THE WHOLE PROCESS
STEP-BY-STEP, APA! STYLE



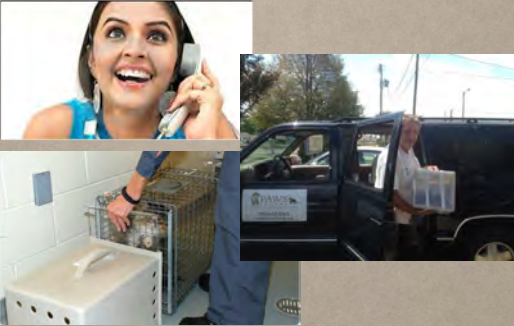
STEP 1: CHECK APPLICATION FOR SUITABILITY
STEP 2: GOOGLE MAPS IS YOUR FRIEND!



STEP 3: DETAILED EMAIL IS SENT



STEP 4: ADOPTER RESPONDS, WORK OUT THE DETAILS, SEND KITTIES HOME!



STEP 5: FOLLOW UP

Barn Cat Adoption Follow Up Survey

Please Don't Forget!

Your Name: _____

How many barn cats did you adopt?*

Of those adopted cats, how many remain with you today?*

If any cats are missing, what do you think happened to them?
Select all that apply:

Ran away / disappeared / don't know

Deceased: confirmed killed by predator

Deceased: confirmed killed by predator (dog, coyote)

Cat is living elsewhere (moved next door, etc)

Other: _____

How long did you keep the cats confined when you brought them home?
(This helps us determine what length of time is most successful.)

1 week or less

2 weeks

3 weeks

4 weeks or more

APA! follows up with all barn cat adoptions at:

1 week

3 months

1 year

IS IT WORKING?



Data on over 3,000 barn placements:

- Long term success rate 85+%
- Predation accounts for less than 2% of loss
- Most frequent cause of adopted cat missing = ran away and/or living elsewhere

MADDIE'S FUND & APA! APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESSES

As an update, we have been doing this for 12 weeks, and at the end of this weekend I will have placed 70 cats. I am booked out until the end of November, and am working on securing more cats so I don't have a very long wait list if possible.


if all goes well - 28 barn cats this month! Thanks Monica Erenden!!!

December we had a total of 8 cats sent out with the Employ a Cat program!

As of January, we have already sent out two and have two applicants on a **waiting list**.

Hi Monica!

Things are going well here in Pennsylvania—we launched our barn cat program in May and have adopted out 11 cats so far with four more scheduled to go this week. We've been getting a great response from the community about it, so I'm excited to see it progress further!



Figured I would give you another quick update. We officially pull Kankakee's ferals weekly! I have had another 10 cats out in the last two weeks! And... drum roll..... we had our very first FeLV cat adopted on Monday!!

FAQ

- Adoption fees
- Crate deposits
- Home checks
- Excessive hoop-jumping



FAQ

- Adopt all year long
- Adopt cats in pairs
(unless you have a cat-hating singleton)
- Make adoption easy
- Provide the tools for success



Um, yes...I have a question

