



HUMANE SOCIETY *of Washington County*

Working Cat Program

The Humane Society of Washington County's Working Cat Program is looking to save the lives of those cats that would have been traditionally deemed "unadoptable" through normal adoption standards.

By adopting working cats (a minimum of two are recommended), you are saving a life and get free rodent control!

Cats that are selected for the program are:

- Kitties that were found as strays thriving outside for a length of time or were surrendered by their owners as being outdoor kitties.
- Kitties that are fearful of people but enjoy the company of other animals.
- Kitties with litterbox aversion issues.

You must be able to provide:

- A secure and dry building or barn.
- The ability to maintain the cats in crates for a minimum 2-3 weeks.
- Provide both dry, canned food and fresh water daily.
- A clean litter box that is scooped daily.
- Willing to trap to vaccinate or to seek medical attention in the event of an illness or injury.

What we provide:

- All cats will be altered prior to leaving the shelter.
- They will have been vaccinated against distemper.
- They will have been vaccinated against rabies.
- They will be microchipped in your name.
- We can also help provide any resources that we have such as: litterboxes, hidey holes, straw (winter months), bedding, or Styrofoam coolers when we have these items available.

The adoption fees for barn cats are waived, but donations are greatly appreciated.

It is recommended that you adopt a minimum of two kitties. This will make the move less traumatic if they have someone they are already familiar with or another kitty to bond with during the confinement phase.

Welcome Home

It is best that you keep the kitties contained a minimum of 2-3 weeks. This helps them to acclimate to the new sights and sounds of their new home. They should be kept in a secure, draft free area where they can see what's going on, but still be safe from other animals and weather. Tack room, feed rooms or stalls that have been kitty- proofed work well. Wherever they are set up, they must have food, water and a litter box. This will become their home base where they will know to come for food. They can't survive on mice alone.

The Big Release

After the confinement phase of three weeks, it's best to open up the area and let the most tame kitty venture out first. Release the next kitty 2-3 days later and so on depending on how many kitties there are. Do this during the day when there is no threat of rain. This transition can be overwhelming to the kitties so keep the area as stress free as possible. Keep children and dogs away from them as they are exploring their new homes. Leave them full access to their crates; they may still seek shelter there while settling in to their new home. If possible provide them access to hiding places both down low and up high.

Cats can't survive on mice alone. Keep cats healthy with a regular feeding schedule, they will not hunt if you withhold food. Scheduled feeding will help them develop a bond with you and keep them from wandering off the property.

Follow Up Care

Your new kitty will be up to date on distemper and rabies vaccines at the time of adoption. We recommend that you continue your cat's vaccination schedule in order to keep them healthy while living outside. If at any time your kitty appears ill or injured, it is your responsibility to have him examined by a veterinarian.