

Working Cat Relocation Tips

Items to have ready

- A place to safely confine the cats temporarily for approx. 2 weeks in their new location. We recommend: A large cage, a cat condo, a large dog kennel, or a chicken coop.
- A long-term shelter structure such as a shed, greenhouse, garage, workshop, warehouse, or barn.
- Cat food: dry kibble and/or canned food as well as water bowls for water.
- Litter box, litter, and litter scoop (to be used temporarily until you let the cat free roam).
- Bedding and a place to hide. You'll want to provide some form of bedding for the cat to use, as well as a place to hide. Cardboard boxes are an easy, cheap alternative.

Transportation

- The cats can be transported in humane traps or in standard plastic or metal carriers. If you are driving, make sure the temperature is maintained at a comfortable level. Secure carriers in the vehicle by using seatbelts if possible. You can lightly cover the carriers. Old sheets or towels work well for this. Do not leave food/water in the carriers. For longer trips (more than a couple hours), a small amount of canned cat food can provide food and enough water content to make it home.

General Recommendations

- Working cats are cats that are accustomed to living outdoors and are generally not socialized to people. Fearful in nature, these cats, sometimes referred to as feral cats, will run and hide. If cornered or reached for, they may scratch or bite, **so take appropriate caution**.
- Feed on a regular schedule. Rattle the food in a box or bowl each time you feed so the cat associates the sound with food. Offering canned cat food is recommended if you plan on trying to socialize your new working cats.

Transition Period to New Home

- Cat(s) will need to be confined for approx. 2 weeks. Some people keep relocated cats confined for longer, but it is important to pay attention to the individual cat's comfort level. Too much confinement can cause stress. The idea is for the cat to settle in and get to know its food source, shelter, and familiarize itself with sounds and smells before it has access to outdoors.
- Set the confinement cage/room up so that it is as clean and comfortable as possible. Be sure there is adequate air and light available. Include food and water bowls, bedding, and ideally a place for the cat to hide.
- After approx. 2 weeks, when it's time to end the transition period, just leave the door open to where the cat was confined. When you release the cat into its new yard, continue feeding on the same schedule as before.