

**Bringing Home Your Barn Buddies**

Relocating outdoor cats into their new home isn’t as easy as just letting them out of their carrier. There are a few necessary steps to be taken before they should be allowed to roam free. Following these instructions will ensure that they will stick around for the remainder of the lives.

1. **The acclimation period should be a minimum of a two weeks (ideally 4-6 weeks), to help them feel comfortable in their new environment.**

You will need the following supplies for a successful acclimation as well:

* + A large wire kennel (covered in a large blanket) or a large plastic kennel to confine the cat in during the acclimation period; a room with a closing door may also work, but you should be careful when entering/exiting to ensure the cat(s) don’t escape before their acclimation period is complete
  + A smaller towel-lined plastic pet carrier to serve as a hiding place, you may need to bungee cord the door open to be sure the cat doesn’t get trapped outside or inside it; if a pet carrier is not available, a cardboard box (that is large enough for the cat to be in) tipped on its side will also work
  + Litter box and litter
  + Blankets and/or straw to line the bottom of the large kennel
  + Food and Water Dishes

1. **The cat will need to be kept confined to the kennel room for a minimum of two weeks, with daily litter box cleaning and food and water changes, while they are getting used to their new surroundings.**

* IMPORTANT: You should not try to physically handle the cat; their temperaments are not always friendly and they will be stressed due to the change of scenery, so they may act out in an aggressive manner.

1. **After the first two weeks, you may leave the kennel door open and allow the cat to explore the area in the barn or shelter.**
   * Leave the kennel and supplies up for the cat to continue to use for a period of time as this is now their “safe space” until they acclimate to their surroundings.
   * During the following two weeks, you will want to provide food and water and a litter box both in the kennel and outside of it for the cat(s) to use whatever is most comfortable for them.

***After this period, your Barn Buddies should be fully adjusted to their new home!*** Continue to feed and water the cats daily with access to an area to eliminate in (either a litter box that is cleaned on a regular basis or a soft surface, such as sand or straw, that is replaced on a regular basis) and let them do their work!