

WINNIPEG HUMANE SOCIETY BARN BUDDIES PROGRAM



What is a Barn Buddies cat?

Cats in the Barn Buddies program are physically healthy, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated. They are not suitable for regular adoption because they exhibit behaviour that is not acceptable for a house cat. This behaviour could be:

- Poor litter box habits
- An escape artist that will not stay indoors
- A cat that is not social with people

These cats have a history of being outdoors, but relocation can be stressful for a cat.

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I've brought my Barn Buddies cat home. Now what?

Please follow the recommendations below to help your new working cat feel welcome and at home.

- Confine the cat for the first three to four weeks, providing food, water, and comfortable shelter/hiding spot. If your cat does not remain confined s/he is more likely to run away. Research has shown the longer confinement period, 4 weeks, leads to the best success
- An extra-large plastic dog crate can work for confinement. It can hold a box for hiding and food/water dishes toward the back, with a litter pan at the front. The confinement must be done in consideration of the time of year and temperature. There must be adequate shade and ventilation in the summer and warmth in the winter. (the photo illustrates the adequate size of crate for this confinement)



- Feed, water, and clean the litter pan at least once daily.
- When feeding canned food make a special call (“here kitty, kitty”) as their food signal. This will help you call the cat back once they are released from confinement.
- The more time you spend bonding with your cat during confinement, the more likely they will stay in their new home. Bonding can be as easy as talking to your cat.
- One day, at the end of the confinement period, leave the door open and allow the cat to come out at its own pace.
- After they have been released, continue to provide cat food and water daily. Cats cannot live on mousing alone and they will leave for greener pastures if you do not feed them. They will still hunt rodents if you do feed them.

Thank you for providing a working cat with a job. Every cat you adopt from a shelter or rescue saves two lives. The life of the cat you adopt and the life of the one that takes their place at the shelter.

Please tell others about our Barn Buddies program. The WHS often has more cats than barn or shop applicants.



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