



APL Barn Cat Program

1001 Taintor Road, Springfield, Illinois 62702

www.apl-shelter.org email: barncats@apl-shelter.org 217-789-7729

CONGRATULATIONS!

You've just adopted barn cats and saved their lives. Here are a few tips to help them acclimate:

- The single most important thing you can do to help your new cats is **KEEP THEM CONFINED** to a secure building or crate for 2-4 weeks. (2 weeks is the minimum, 4 weeks is optimal.) Your new cats are understandably frightened and confused right now, they do not know where they are and they do not know that you are trying to help them. If you let them out before 2-4 weeks, they will run away, get lost, and perhaps die. So for 2-4 weeks, please keep them confined.
- The cats may be confined to a building if it is secure and they cannot get out. If the building has holes, an overhead door, or an opening they may otherwise escape from, please see the next page for info on crate confinement. Place dry food, water, and litter in an easy-to-find location. During this period, it is best to keep a regular feeding time using dry and canned food so that the cats establish a schedule. If they know to expect food at the same time every day, they will come at this time and you can keep tabs on the cats.
- Provide fresh cat food and water and scoop their litter box daily. While you feed, talk to the cats, make "kitty kitty" calls, etc so the cats learn that the sound of your voice means food! At the end of the 2-4 week confinement period, you may leave the door open and allow the cats to come out at their 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 your farm for greener pastures if you do not provide cat food. They will still hunt rodents if you feed them.
- If you need anything at all, call us at 217-789-7729 or email at barncats@apl-shelter.org. Email is the best way to reach us on weekends.
- Please tell others about our Barn Cat Program! Unfortunately, unsocialized feral cats like the ones you just rescued are being killed in shelters across the US every single day. Help us save them and spread the word that they make great working cats!