



ANIMAL SERVICES

Thank you for providing a new home to a barn cat!

Here is some important information for the care of your barn cats:

1. The cats you have received are most likely are feral (wild) cats; they are not domesticated and should be treated as such, i.e. not getting too close to them or trying to touch them. This is also important for children to understand.
2. Every cat has been spayed or neutered, ear notched and has received their initial vaccinations as indicated on the medical paperwork. There is no charge for this program, however, donations to the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter are greatly appreciated and will enable the shelter to continue the "Barn Cat" program.
3. If you do not already have a secure place (i.e.. barn, shed, extra room) you will require a temporary "enclosure" to keep the cats confined, such as a wire crate or kitty condo. You will also have to provide a litter box (or access to soil if your barn has a dirt floor), food bowl, litter, and food to get started. It is best to leave the cats alone as much as possible for at least a day or so to allow them to settle down in their new environment. These cats can be stressed (trapping, confinement, surgery, etc.) by the time they have arrived at your home.
4. It is your responsibility to feed and water the cats on a daily basis, as well as keep the litter box clean while they are confined during the adjustment period. If you carefully open the crate and not get too close to the cats, they will normally stay away from you. Some cats however might try to escape, so it is important to open the door only as much as needed to clean the litter box or to add food and water. Offering 'smelly, yummy' canned food during this time can entice these cats to hang around.
5. It is recommended to keep the cats confined for at least 14 days in order to acclimate to their new environment, sounds and smells. After that time, open the enclosure (and leave the enclosure open) and let the cats decide to go out/in for another week. It is difficult to relocate feral cats so some of them may not stay around even after a 2-week confinement. If they have "hiding places" such as barn, sheds, etc., there is a higher probability they may hang around. Be aware that you might not see the cats for a while after their release, but they are often scouting hiding places and watching to make sure you continue to feed. Continue to feed for at least 3 weeks after release, even if you don't see them. A game camera can show you who is eating their food.
6. You will still need to provide DAILY food and water after they have been released. While you don't want them to get fat, feeding them enough to live on will ensure they are healthy, and encourage them to stay. You do NOT want them to eat their kills, because even if you don't have rat poison out, your neighbor might. Eating a poisoned rat can give a cat a miserable death. Feeding them canned food regularly, at least several times a week for at least 3 months, gives them a reason to stay.

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7. Barn cats typically have a life span of 2-5 years, though many will live much longer. Training them to go inside an enclosed barn or shop at night will increase their life expectancy. Some barn cats may eventually become tame enough to handle, and you may decide to have an annual vaccination administered by a vet.

If you received a WPCAS setup to get you started, you will be contacted after 3 weeks to return the crates and its contents or arrange for someone to pick them up. **If you have any questions while the cats are confined, please contact: JoAnn – 817-458-2738 or Duane – 580-458-2909 – Weatherford Whiskers.**

It is appreciated if you will return kennels and all equipment (including litterbox, scoop, dishes, carriers/boxes) to Weatherford Whiskers – 807 E. Park – AND please text JoAnn/Duane a photo showing where you left it.

Thank you so much for giving a second chance to these cats.

Revised 12/30/22 – Weatherford Whiskers & WPCAS

Weatherford/Parker County Animal Shelter
403 Hickory Lane – P.O. Box 255 – Weatherford, TX 76086 – Phone (817) 598-4111