

# TIPS & SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL RELOCATION

Your cat(s) will need some time to adjust to their new home. Believe it or not, you can train your cat, and help make their transition smooth and comfortable.

## **FEEDING**

Please do not expect your working cat(s) to live on rodents as their only source of food. They will need you to feed them too, and **provide a fresh source of water!** A well-fed cat will be a stronger and more successful hunter.

Most cats really like wet food, and using this initially is a good tool to entice them to return home. It's best to **feed in small amounts, twice a day**—once in the morning (dry food), and once in the evening (wet food). Do not feed a large amount all at once, nor use an automatic feeder. It's important that they become used to the routine, and associate humans with food.

Before feeding, get into the habit of making a consistent, distinctive dinner time call (a little bell would work great, or shaking the food or treat container) to help them associate the noise with dinner. Cats love routine, and this will be extremely helpful in calling them in at night once they're released.

Cats also love **treats** and most will respond well and can even be slightly tamed and trained with treats. This helps remind them that humans are good, and familiarize them with your presence.



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## ORIENTATION & RELEASE

Your cat(s) will need to stay confined in their cage for the first 2-3 weeks. Studies have shown that this, along with the regular feeding schedule, helps them adjust to their new home base, and lessens the likelihood of them immediately taking off as soon as you release them. You will need to keep the litterbox cleaned during this time. Scoopable litter can be a big help.

If they will be housed in a garage, barn, or other outbuilding it helps to release the cat in two stages. First release them into this building after the first 2-3 weeks in their cage, leaving the cage door open to allow them to return to it as they wish. Continue your morning and evening feeding routine, and **keep them in this building for another week before releasing** them outdoors.

It's likely that the cat(s) will initially hide, but regular visits, continuing the feeding routine, and attempting to verbally bond with the cat can also increase the chances of the cat(s) staying in the area.

When you do release the cat(s), release them **before** they are fed, so that you can utilize feeding to call them back in. We recommend bringing them in every evening around dusk, so they are secured at night and safe from the elements, and most importantly, other predators, such as coyotes.

Keep their bedding, towels, or other 'scented' items in place as long as possible to entice the cat to return to a familiar place. Cats also like to be up high, so if you can feed them safely on a shelf or other elevated space rather than on the floor, they'd appreciate it!



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