

INTRODUCING CATS INTO BARN

Cats tend to be free-spirited and wander away from home. Always exploring and hunting for their next meal or partner. There are a few things I suggest you do when you bring your cat home to ensure they always stay close or come back:

- Have a large crate set up in your barn or shelter that you want them to claim as home.
- Keep them in this large crate for about 10-14 days (if possible) with plenty of food and water plus a litter box.
- After two weeks or so, open the crate so they can roam around. Keep feeding them and providing water. You may choose to move the litter box out of the crate but keep it nearby.
- After a few days of roaming freely, move their food, water, and litter box out (if you haven't already) of the crate.
- For two more weeks, keep the crate available and open. The cat may choose to sleep there or keep coming back to it as their safe place. Once it has been a few weeks, you may remove the crate altogether. By now, the cat should be used to their new home and happily roam about but still come back.
- Always keep feeding your cat and providing water (unless there is a water source nearby). This will keep them coming back for more.
- And if you want, while they are in the cage for the first two weeks, talk to them like a strange cat lady! They will get used to your voice, and it could calm them.

When we got Oscar and Georgia, they were about 10 weeks old, and this is exactly what we did. It worked out perfectly, and they have been the best barn cats.

Once you move the cat litter, you can choose to remove it altogether or leave it. We removed it. They use the bathroom outside around the farm, and it's never been an issue. And no more poop scooping for me! Yay!