

Caring for your Barn Cat



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Congratulations on your adoption! Bringing a new cat into your barn is a exciting experience! Below are some tips on how to properly care for your new cat.

Confinement and Introduction Stage

Providing you new barn cat with a slow introduction to its new environment is the first up most important aspect when you first bring your cat home. Giving you cat a “safe zone” for 2-3 weeks will help create a happy and less stressful transfer to their new life. Keep your cat in an area that they can stay in for a period of time to get use to its new environment, new sounds and smells. This extended period of time will help avoid run aways. Being able to give your barn cat a safe place for them to at the beginning stages of introduction will also create a positive and safe area for them to then go to once they are free in the main barn.

Types of safe zones: Tack room, large dog kennel, gated or crated area (that they can't jump out of)

Providing an empty cardboard box or empty littler pan are a few ideas of what should be given to the cat within the safe zone for the cat to have a place to hide.

Litter

Changing your barn cats litter on a daily basis is also an essential part of a healthy life for your cat. It is recommended that you have the same amount of litter pans per cat plus one. For example if you have 5 barn cats, it is best to have 6 litter pans. This helps to avoid any unnecessary spraying, urinating and defecating throughout the barn.

Shelter, Food and Water

Having access to adequate shelter, a safe dry bed, fresh water and daily food is necessary for your barn cat to live a long stress free life. Cats are very independent but still need and depend on basic care from us as owners. Studies have shown that cats that are fed on a regular basis are better mousers because they have better overall health and more energy. Proper care must be taken to protect your cat from harm from wild predators and aggressive dogs. This includes proper enclosed shelter, and routine check ins on your barn cats.

Illness and Disease

There are plenty of illnesses and diseases that animals are susceptible to. There are a few devastating sicknesses that affects only cats. Feline Leukemia is very contagious between cats and a virus that suppresses the immune system. Many cats with the illness can survive and be fine, while many others will become very ill and pass away. Others also include feline immunodeficiency virus or FIV. FIV is similar to AIDS in humans. With proper medical care, a FIV positive cat can live a long life, but also pass it to other cats. Both of these diseases can be tested for and vaccinated against to help prevention and spread of the virus.



Parasites

Parasites are also a common encounter in barn cats. Your cat should be dewormed by the vet to prevent infestation of worms. Flea and ear mites can also affect your barn cat painfully and be prevented by routine treatment. We highly recommend treatment as fleas, ear mites as well as worms are highly contagious. Heartworm prevention is also something to speak to your veterinarian about.

Our Commitment to You

Ensuring our adopted barn cats live long and healthy lives is our passion. Should you run into dilemmas or problems down the road please don't hesitate to call us for advice. Please contact us at info@gths.ca or call 705-445-5204 ex 225 or ext 223. We have a wealth of resources at our disposal and would be happy to help you. In addition, you can always visit our website at www.gths.ca for some great tips.

Poisons

To prevent accidental poisoning to your cat(s), making sure your barn is free and clear of all toxins is the first step. Keep you barn well organized, and possible poisons out of reach from the cat(s)

Examples of poisons and toxins to your cat:

Antifreeze

Batteries

Fertilizer

Rat poison

Moldy feed

All of these products can be harmful to your cats. If you store any trackers or motorized vehicles in the barn make sure the radiators are not leaking.

The Importance of Using a Carrier

Transporting cats safely is an extremely important part of responsible pet ownership. This requires the use of a well made carrier for any transportation outside, including car rides. Although you may trust your cat, new environments can be overwhelming. By not using a carrier you are running the risk of losing your cat.

Fights and Trauma

Barn cats getting into fights, or creating trauma onto themselves or other cats can be difficult to prevent. The best way to deal with this is again to keep a well organized and clean barn. Keep anything that could be harmful to the cats out of reach. The most important thing to remember if



your cats get into a fight is to treat the cat as soon as you see the trauma. Small bite wounds and scratches can turn into large and deadly infections. This creates stress and pain on the cat, and a large veterinary bill that could have been prevented if only treated at first glance.

Signs of illness

Despite your strongest efforts, at one point your barn cat will most likely get sick. What is important is to know what to look for when your cat is not well. Different symptoms to look out for of a sick cat are:

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| Lethargic | Obvious wounds/blood | Limping | Not eating |
| Dehydrated | Nasal and/or eye discharge | Coughing or sneezing | Severe vocalization |
| Not eating | Drooling or foaming at the mouth | Rash or severe itching | Swelling and/or puss |
| Severe vocalization | | | |

If you find your cat with any of these signs of illness contact your vet and discuss the next step that would be taken.



**The Georgian Triangle Humane Society is proud
to feed and recommend Royal Canin**

*Royal Canin products can be found at the following local
retailers:*

Collingwood: Pet Valu, 99 Balsam Street

Global Pet Foods, 20 Balsam Street

Thornbury: Mullins Pet Market, 99 King Street

Meaford: Mullins Pet Market, 365 Sykes Street South

Wasaga Beach: Global Pet Foods, 3 Market Lane

Pet Valu, 707 River Road West

Markdale: Mullins Pet Market, 217 Toronto Street South

