

TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY – POLICY AND PROCEDURE			
Chapter	OPERATIONS	Issued	March 26, 2015
Section	ANIMAL WELFARE	Effective	March 26, 2015
Subject	BARN CAT PLACEMENT POLICY	# Pages	6

1. PURPOSE

The Toronto Humane Society recognizes that every animal has unique needs and that some cats do better in non-traditional environments. The Barn Cat Placement Policy matches feral and poorly socialized cats and/or those with unresolvable litter box issues who experience stress in the shelter, with caregivers at barns, stables or farms. As with all placements, and in accordance with its no kill directive, THS will ensure the barn, the cat and the caregiver are well matched to ensure a successful outcome.

2. POLICY

- (a) THS will explore other options to help a cat, including medical and behavioural intervention, before considering an alternative placement.
- (b) Both cats and placement sites will be assessed for suitability and to ensure a good match.
- (c) Cats who are familiar with one another will be placed together wherever possible.
- (d) All cats will be sterilized, vaccinated and microchipped before being placed.
- (e) When placing a cat in an alternative placement location, THS will provide free food, litter and a crate (if needed) for the first two months of the placement, plus ongoing support during the transition period.
- (f) Caregivers will sign a barn cat adoption contract and follow THS' Barn Placement Program Guidelines to acclimatize the cat to its new home.
- (g) While caregivers are welcome to contact THS at any time, they will provide weekly updates on the cat's progress until four weeks after the acclimatization period, and periodic updates every three to six months thereafter to allow THS to assess the success of the program.
- (h) At the end of the successful transition period, ownership of the cat and the microchip registration will transfer to the alternative placement location owner or caregiver.

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- (i) After adoption, the new owner is responsible for the cat’s welfare. However, THS will provide veterinary care, including euthanasia (in accordance with the Euthanasia Policy), should the owner be unable to do so.
- (j) THS will provide free spay/neuter and vaccine services for any cats already residing at the alternative placement location.
- (k) If a cat is not adjusting well after an appropriate transition period, THS will accept it as a return adoption, including advising on and assisting with trapping, if needed.
- (l) If a cat placed under this policy is returned to THS it will be reassessed for placement (in accordance with the Barn Cat Placement Policy).
- (m) Placements made under this policy are subject to review by the Issues Oversight Committee.

3. SCOPE

- (a) The Barn Cat Placement Policy applies to THS-owned cats.
- (b) The policy applies to all employees and volunteers who interact with cats and/or alternative placement locations.

4. ASSESSING FELINES

- (a) Assessments are performed by the behaviour department (in accordance with the Behaviour Modification and Management Policy).
- (b) Other options including, but not limited to, returning feral cats to their original colony, medical intervention and behavioural modification, will be attempted before considering an alternative placement.
- (c) The Barn Cat Placement Scorecard will be used to assess the cat’s suitability for placement in an alternative location.

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(d) To be considered for placement in a barn, stable or farm, cats **must have one or more** of the following:

- Come from a feral colony, hoarding case or other situation where the cat is not comfortable in a conventional home
- Experience significant stress in the shelter environment
- React negatively to being handled, including expressing fear or aggression
- Exhibit significant behavioural issues, such as chronic house soiling, that do not resolve with treatment

(e) Cats with the following issues **are not suitable** for placement in a barn, stable or farm:

- Significant unresolved health concerns
- Declawed

(f) THS will **use caution** in deciding to place cats who have/are:

- Friendly and sociable disposition
- Unaccustomed to being outdoors
- Ongoing health concerns, including contagious diseases, a need for ongoing medication or treatment, or where the prognosis is poor
- Physical characteristics that limit the cat’s ability to survive in a barn, stable or farm environment, including current coat condition, full mouth extractions, etc.

(g) Healthy-looking cats who remain at the placement site four weeks after the end of the acclimatization period will be considered to have transitioned successfully.

(h) Cats who appear sick (as outlined in the Barn Placement Program Guidelines), or who cause ongoing disruption to the resident animals, will be trapped and assessed. THS will provide advice and assistance with trapping, if needed.

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- (i) Should a cat not be seen at the placement site, caregivers will continue to provide food and water until/unless it is clear the cat is no longer present.

5. ASSESSING ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT LOCATIONS

- (a) While volunteers may identify and recruit potential placement locations, all barns, stables and farms will be assessed by staff before placing cats at the site.
- (b) THS will strive to develop and maintain a good relationship with every alternative placement location that participates in the Barn Cat Placement Program.
- (c) The most important factor in selecting an alternative placement location is the owner and/or individual(s) who will care for the feline(s). They should be willing to acclimatize the cat(s) to the site (following THS' Barn Placement Program Guidelines) and able to provide ongoing care.
- (d) People should live in and/or work at and/or visit the site on a daily basis to ensure the cat(s) are fed and monitored.
- (e) All locations must have a building the cat(s) can access, with an isolation area and heat source (e.g. heating system or horses/livestock).
- (f) Locations with unfriendly dogs and/or in close proximity to traffic are not well suited for placing cats.
- (g) In determining the success of an alternative placement location, THS will consider the owner/caregiver's willingness to participate in the program, communicate with THS and compliance with THS' Barn Placement Program Guidelines.

6. DEFINITIONS

- (a) Acclimatization period: a period of time (at least two weeks) where the cat is contained in an enclosed space at the alternative placement location to help it to adjust to its new home.



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(b) Alternative placement location: typically unconventional environments like barns, stables and farms.

(c) Transition period: a period of time (usually four weeks post-acclimatization) where the cat resides at the alternative placement location, but THS retains ownership and provides food, supplies, medical and/or behavioral support at no cost.

7. REFERENCES

- Adoption/Rehoming Policy
- Behaviour Modification & Management Policy
- Euthanasia Policy
- Barn Cat Adoption Contract
- Barn Placement Program Guidelines

Chief Executive Officer

President

Date

Date

Date: _____

Animal #: _____

Medical Assessor: _____

Animal Name: _____

Behavioural Assessor: _____

Criterion	Category	Score (circle)
<i>Health Status</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex, chronic progressive • Manageable with ongoing care/treatment • Localized, treatable/resolved, no further treatment required • No health concerns 	<p style="text-align: center;">0 1 2 3</p>
<i>In Shelter Welfare</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No obvious and visible stress • Mild stress • Moderate stress, behavioural changes • Severe stress, some stress-related abnormal behaviour • Extreme stress, stress-related abnormal behaviour 	<p style="text-align: center;">0 1 2 3 4</p>
<i>Behaviour</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No behavioural concerns • Mild behaviour issues; poor socialization • Moderate behaviour issues; poor socialization not responding to behaviour medication; inappropriate urination • Severe behaviour issues; not socialized, not responding to socialization program/work; inappropriate defecation • Extreme behaviour issues; not socialized, un-handleable, not rehabilitatable 	<p style="text-align: center;">0 1 2 3 4</p>
<i>Medical Declarations</i>	<p>I have reviewed the Barn Cat Placement Policy, Euthanasia Policy, Behaviour Modification & Management Policy and Adoption/ Rehoming Policy. It is my opinion that the cat is in need of alternative placement in the Toronto Humane Society Barn Cat Program.</p> <p>-AND-</p> <p>I further believe that this cat has the medical capacity to survive in a barn environment that is compliant with the requirements of the Toronto Humane Society Barn Cat Placement Policy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Initial</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
<i>Behavioural Declarations</i>	<p>I have reviewed the Barn Cat Placement Policy, Euthanasia Policy, Behaviour Modification & Management Policy and Adoption/ Rehoming Policy. It is my opinion that the cat is in need of alternative placement in the Toronto Humane Society Barn Cat Program.</p> <p>-AND-</p> <p>I further believe that this cat has the behavioural capacity to survive in a barn environment that is compliant with the requirements of the Toronto Humane Society Barn Cat Placement Policy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Initial</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>