

Barn Cat Placement Policy

Purpose

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, Toronto Humane Society will ensure the barn, the cat and the caregiver are well matched to ensure a successful outcome.

Policy

1. Toronto Humane Society will explore other options to help a cat, including medical and behavioural intervention, before considering an alternative placement.
2. Both cats and placement sites will be assessed for suitability and to ensure a good match.
3. Cats who are familiar with one another will be placed together wherever possible.
4. All cats will be sterilized, vaccinated and microchipped before being placed.
5. When placing a cat in an alternative placement location, Toronto Humane Society 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.
6. Caregivers will sign a barn cat adoption contract and follow Toronto Humane Society's Barn Placement Program Guidelines to acclimatize the cat to its new home.
7. While caregivers are welcome to contact Toronto Humane Society 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 Toronto Humane Society to assess the success of the program.
8. 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.
9. After adoption, the new owner is responsible for the cat's welfare. However, Toronto Humane Society will provide veterinary care, including euthanasia (in accordance with the Euthanasia Policy), should the owner be unable to do so.
10. Toronto Humane Society will provide free spay/neuter and vaccine services for any cats already residing at the alternative placement location.
11. If a cat is not adjusting well after an appropriate transition period, Toronto Humane Society will accept it as a return adoption, including advising on and assisting with trapping, if needed.
12. If a cat placed under this policy is returned to Toronto Humane Society it will be reassessed for placement (in accordance with the Barn Cat Placement Policy).
13. Placements made under this policy are subject to review by the Issues Oversight Committee.

Scope

1. The Barn Cat Placement Policy applies to Toronto Humane Society owned cats.
2. The policy applies to all employees and volunteers who interact with cats and/or alternative placement locations.



Assessing Felines

1. Assessments are performed by the behaviour department (in accordance with the Behaviour Modification and Management Policy).
2. 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.
3. The Barn Cat Placement Scorecard will be used to assess the cat's suitability for placement in an alternative location.
4. To be considered for placement in a barn, stable or farm, cats must have one or more of the following:
5. Come from a feral colony, hoarding case or other situation where the cat is not comfortable in a conventional home
6. Experience significant stress in the shelter environment
7. React negatively to being handled, including expressing fear or aggression
8. Exhibit significant behavioural issues, such as chronic house soiling, that do not resolve with treatment
9. Cats with the following issues are not suitable for placement in a barn, stable or farm:
 - Significant unresolved health concerns
 - Declawed
10. Toronto Humane Society 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.
11. 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.
12. 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. Toronto Humane Society will provide advice and assistance with trapping, if needed.
13. 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.

Assessing Alternative Placement Locations

1. 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.
2. Toronto Humane Society will strive to develop and maintain a good relationship with every alternative placement location that participates in the Barn Cat Placement Program.
3. 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 Toronto Humane Society's Barn Placement Program Guidelines) and able to provide ongoing care.



4. 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.
5. 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).
6. Locations with unfriendly dogs and/or in close proximity to traffic are not well suited for placing cats.
7. In determining the success of an alternative placement location, Toronto Humane Society will consider the owner/caregiver's willingness to participate in the program, communicate with Toronto Humane Society and compliance with Toronto Humane Society's Barn Placement Program Guidelines.

Definitions

1. **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
2. **Alternative placement location:** typically unconventional environments like barns, stables and farms.
3. **Transition period:** a period of time (usually four weeks post-acclimatization) where the cat resides at the alternative placement location, but Toronto Humane Society retains ownership and provides food, supplies, medical and/or behavioral support at no cost.

References

1. Adoption/Rehoming Policy
2. Behaviour Modification & Management Policy
3. Euthanasia Policy
4. Barn Cat Adoption Contract
5. Barn Placement Program Guidelines

Chief Executive Officer:

Date:

President:

Date:



Date: _____

Animal Number: _____

Animal Name: _____

Medical Assessor: _____

Behaviour Assessor: _____

Criterion	Category
Health Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 - Complex, chronic progressive <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Manageable with ongoing care/treatment <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Localized, treatable/resolved, no further treatment required <input type="checkbox"/> 3- No health concerns
In Shelter Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 -No obvious and visible stress <input type="checkbox"/> 1- Mild stress <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Moderate stress, behavioural changes <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Severe stress, some stress-related abnormal behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Extreme stress, stress-related abnormal behaviour
Behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 - No behavioural concerns <input type="checkbox"/> 1- Mild behaviour issues; poor socialization <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Moderate behaviour issues; poor socialization not responding to behaviour medication; inappropriate urination <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Severe behaviour issues; not socialized, not responding to socialization program/work; inappropriate defecation <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Extreme behaviour issues; not socialized, un-handleable, not rehabilitatable
Medical Declarations	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Toronto Humane Society's Barn Cat Program. <input type="checkbox"/> I further believe that this cat has the medical capacity to survive in a barn environment that is compliant with the requirements of Toronto Humane Society's Barn Cat Placement Policy. <p style="text-align: right;">Initial: _____</p>
Behavioural Declarations	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Toronto Humane Society's Barn Cat Program. <input type="checkbox"/> I further believe that this cat has the behavioural capacity to survive in a barn environment that is compliant with the requirements of Toronto Humane Society's Barn Cat Placement Policy. <p style="text-align: right;">Initial: _____</p>

