

## Cincinnati Animal CARE Working Cat Acclimation Guidelines

Congratulations and thank you for adopting a Working Cat!

It's important to give your new cat(s) time to acclimate to their new environment. Remember, this is scary for them- new people, new environment, and sometimes new animals. If you bring them home and let them loose without giving them time to acclimate, they will most certainly run away.

For the best chance of a successful transition, please follow the guidelines below. Fortunately, outdoor cats acclimate to new territory fairly easily and in a short amount of time (4-6 weeks), if you follow the proper steps.

1. Your new cat(s) will be sent home in Feral Dens. This is the best and safest way to transport them and gives them somewhere to hide during this transition.
2. Place the cat in the Feral Den in a large crate, cage, kennel or secure tack room within the building that they will be calling home. Don't forget to keep open the circular Feral Den door!
3. In the crate, cage, kennel or secure tack room, provide a small towel, litter box, food and water.
4. Your cat(s) will live like this for 2-3 weeks, with you providing fresh food and water daily, as well as, regular litter box cleaning. For your safety and the comfort of the cat(s), simply close the circular Feral Den door while cleaning and feeding. Don't forget to open it back up when you leave!
5. After 2-3 weeks and once you have established a routine and food source for your cat(s). You will continue to feed, water and clean daily but can start leaving the door open to the cage, crate, kennel or secure tack room so they can explore the grounds when they feel comfortable.
6. Leave supplies and cage set-up, as is, for another 2-3 weeks, still providing routine and the comfort of the cage set-up while your cat(s) explore the property.
7. By the end of 4-6 weeks, your cat(s) should be comfortable in their new home so you can remove the acclimation supplies.
8. Caring for a Working Cat is easy! Continue to provide food and water daily. Do not rely on your cat(s) to live off of rodents alone. They need regular cat food as well.
9. Please contact Cincinnati Animal CARE ([513. 541.PETS \(7387\)](tel:513.541.PETS.7387)) or visit the shelter during open hours to return the Feral Den and claim your deposit.