

Cat Care Initiative's Feral Barn Cat Program Contract & Terms



Overview

CCI was founded to humanely address the cat overpopulation problem in Trent Hills Municipality. Feral is a cat's natural state; unlike dogs, their domestication is relatively recent, and without early socialization with humans, cats are wild. Feral cat colonies typically develop when unneutered and unsprayed pets roam outside, reproduce, and their unsocialized kittens grow up and continue the cycle.

Feral cats cannot be traditionally adopted. When trapped and taken to a shelter, they're often euthanized because they're considered unadoptable and cannot be handled by potential pet owners who want a cat for their home. These cats are happiest in their colonies outside.

Not all humans understand this, and want cats removed from the area, but since they can't go into a shelter, their only option is to be relocated to another colony or a barn.

There is no adoption fee for a feral barn cat, however a donation toward CCI's cat programs is greatly appreciated and will allow us to help more animals in Trent Hills.

Our Commitment

- CCI will spay/neuter and vaccinate the feral cat, transport it to the farm or area with whom we have an agreement with, and release it into the new owner's care.
- At the time of spaying and neutering, the veterinarian will "ear-tip" the cat, taking off the corner of the left ear, to indicate it's been sterilized.
- Copies of the spay/neuter and vaccination certificates can be provided when obtained from the veterinarian.
- CCI does not provide food or reimburse for future care.

Expectations of a Feral Barn Cat Owner

It's a myth that spayed/neutered cats, and cats who have access to kibble, will stop catching mice. Even indoor cats who have never fended for themselves still have the drive to chase and kill prey.

It takes one to two weeks for a relocated cat to understand where its new "home" is. We recommend the new owner have a shed, garage, or another confined area in which to keep the cat for those two weeks, while providing fresh food, water, and litter daily. The space provided must be able to fit food/water, litter, and a resting area for the cat, at a minimum the size of a large dog crate. CCI can sometimes loan a dog crate when we have them available. After at least a week has passed, the cat can be released, and it will stay in the area. Spaying and neutering reduces a cat's need to roam. Taking two feral cats at once can also provide companionship and lessen the likelihood of roaming.

Contract

By entering our feral barn cat program, you agree to and understand the following:

- to follow the instructions for relocating the animal, including keeping it confined for one to two weeks in a space with food, water, litter, and a spot to rest, the minimum size of a large dog crate
- to provide fresh food and water daily for the animal
- to offer shelter for the animal, including access to a barn and/or a small feral cat shelter in winter
- to provide a place for the animal to live out its life comfortably
- to make arrangements for the continued care for the animal in the event of moving, whether to relocate the cat yourself, or to ensure the new property owners will agree to this contract and contact CCI to follow up
- you are responsible for future veterinary costs, such as vaccination
- will not hold CCI and its volunteers responsible for any damage or injury to people or property caused by this animal

Adopter Name (please print)

Phone Number

Adopter Address

I acknowledge that I have read, fully comprehend, and agree to the above contract.

Adopter Signature

Date

Board Member Signature #1

Board Member Signature #2