Adopt a Working Cat

What you can expect from Us

- We place cats in pairs.
- All cats are spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and treated for fleas.
- We can provide guidance on the acclimation process and answer questions once the cats are with you.

What we need from You

- The ability to provide a safe, secure area for the cats to live for the rest of their lives, including appropriate shelter from weather.
- A commitment to keep the cats in their acclimation space for four weeks before releasing them.
- A commitment to provide food, water and lookout for their well-being for life.

Working Cat Program FAQs

If your question isn't answered on this page, please email us!

1. How much does it cost to adopt a Working Cat?

2. What do I do when I bring the cats home?

3. Are they spayed or neutered?

4. Do you have any friendly Working Cats?

5. Do you have any "Working Kittens"?

6. What do the cats require after they are released?

7. Can I come look at, or select, my Working Cats?

1. How much does it cost to adopt a Working Cat?

The adoption fee is waived. You will be responsible for ongoing veterinary care (as necessary), food, water and shelter.

2. What do I do when I bring the cats home?

When you bring the new cats home, they will need to be confined to an escape-proof room or enclosure like a tack room, garage, coop, or XXL dog crate for 4 weeks while they acclimate to their new surroundings. We will give you lots of guidance to make sure the space you have for them is suitable. You will feed/water and clean the litter pan daily during this four-week period.

After this period of confinement, the cats will usually accept their new home and may be released. You will continue to provide daily food and water and allow them access to shelter such as your barn, garage, or basement. We are available to answer questions before and after you bring the cats home.

3. Are they spayed or neutered?

Yes. All Working Cats are spayed or neutered, current on vaccinations, microchipped, and treated for fleas.

4. Do you have any friendly Working Cats?

The cats in the Working Cats Program are not social, friendly cats or suited to be pets. While they may eventually warm up to you, they are just as likely to keep their distance. We strongly encourage adopters to offer cats in this program an independent outdoor life complemented by appropriate care and shelter like a barn or garage.

5. Do you have any "working kittens"?

The youngest cats in the Working Cat Program are approximately five months old. OAS will not adopt younger kittens as Working Cats, as they don't yet have the knowledge, size, or skills to remain safe outdoors. Most cats in the Working Cat program are young adults between one and five years of age, though we do have younger and older cats available occasionally. If you have an age preference, just let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you!

6. What do the cats require?

The cats require shelter in a permanent building or structure like a barn, shed, stable, or garage in a suitable area where they will be safe. Warehouses, retail stores, garden centers may also be good placements for working cats. The property should be at least 1/2 mile away from busy roads. Daily food and water must be provided, as well as any future medical care needed. The cats must also be kept confined for the initial 4-week relocation period to ensure a successful transition to their new home.

7. Can I come look at, or select, my Working Cats?

When you are scheduled to adopt, OAS will select working cats for you based on availability and will do our best to choose cats who we think will thrive in your situation. While we don't have the bandwidth for you to come select your cats, we will communicate about the cats in advance. If you have a color, age, or gender preference, we will do our best to accommodate you. All Working Cat adoptions are scheduled by appointment since it can take some time and extra staff to get the cats ready to go to their new home. Just fill out the application to get started!