

EMPLOY A CAT: TRANSITION AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Allow Time to Acclimate

- Each new cat employee must be confined to an escape-proof area for 3-4 weeks. It may seem cruel to keep the cats in their cages, but it is the best way to increase their chance of long term survival.
- The purpose of the confinement area is to give them a chance to get used to their new surroundings and prevent them from running away at the time of release.
- Ideally the cats should be confined to the area where they will eventually be living together, so they can get used to the sights and smells.
- Safe confinement areas may include a tack room, empty stall, garage or other enclosed area. If these spaces are not available where the cats will be employed, we can lend you a large wire crate (42 x 28 x 30 inches). The confinement area should be part of the cat's future territory.
- If using the wire crates we recommend placing a den or carrier in the far corner and the food litterbox towards the front to make caring for the cat easier.
- The cats must have a litter box (you'll need to clean this daily), hiding box, and clean bedding or straw in their confinement areas. Lining the wire crates with a newspaper make cleaning up easier.
- Make sure the confinement area has sufficient ventilation and will not reach dangerous temperatures for the cats during the day or at night.
- On hot days, you can place fans, cool tiles, or frozen water bottles in their enclosures to help them stay cool. Make sure the sun is not hitting them and they always have fresh water.



Lunch Breaks

- Feed the cats regularly and at the same time each day. This will allow them to get used to the location and time that they will receive food once they are roaming free.
- Keep putting the food and water out for the cats after you have released them, even if you do not see them for a few days. They are most likely hiding and will come out for food and water when they are more comfortable.



Continued Care

- You will be given veterinary records for each of your cat employees. Please hold on to these so that you know when they will need their rabies vaccines, annual deworming, and/or flea treatments.
- Semi-feral cats may become more social after they get to know you, but do not be surprised if you see very little of your new cat employees.
- To prevent wildlife and rodents from eating the cat food, we suggest you feed your cat employees twice a day at the same time each day and remove the food at the end of the day.
- The cats must always have access to a warm, dry shelter with clean bedding.
- Cats should always have access to a safe elimination spot---whether this is outdoors or a regularly-cleaned litterbox.
- Cat employees may need to be seen by a vet periodically for vaccinations and parasite control. We recommend adding a crushed wormer to their food 1-2 times a year and to keep the cats on a regular flea preventative. If the cat cannot be touched, you can treat the environment instead.
- If you need to trap your employee cats, we can loan you a humane trap with a refundable \$80 deposit.
- Our cats are not rented and this is an adoption of an outdoor cat. If for any reason the adopter cannot continue caring for the cat, the cat may be returned to the Pasadena Humane.

Job Hazards

If you live in an area known for coyote predation, please consider confining the cats to a safe, indoor area at night, at least until they know the area well enough to stay safe on their own. You may also try these tips:

- Predators may be attracted to leftover food. We recommend keeping waste to a minimum. Picking up fallen fruit from trees, uneaten food, or bird seed.
- Consider possible escape routes. Cat shelters should have an entrance and an exit. Areas around the home may have low-clearance sheds, barns or decks for cats to dash under.
- Consider building or purchasing a shelter that is safe from predators. We recommend finding a shelter with small entrances and exits for the cats. [Feral Villa](#) makes a great example of a predator safe shelter.

If you have any questions or concerns about the PHS cats you have or would like to employ, please email employacat@pasadenahumane.org

