Feral Cats in Texas

Peggy Atkerson
Office: 972-315-2875    Cell: 972-742-5238
info@barncats.org
Agenda

- Bio – Peg / Barn Cats
- Overview: Barn Cats, Inc.
- Feral Cats at Animal Services
- Feral Relocation
- Resources for Barning
- The Feral Relocation Handbook
- Questions
Overview: Barn Cats, Inc

- September 2003
- Got the name incorporated, 501C3 completed, and designed a logo and website
- By December 2012 placed 4,735
- Mission: To promote the well-being of urban feral and semi-feral cats by placing them in safe, secure barn homes where they can live out their lives.
- Barning is all we do

We are non-toxic pest control
The Cats

Criteria for Acceptance

- Sterilized adults – NO KITTENS!
- Negative feline leukemia test
- Rabies / distemper shots
- Cage available

Where do they come from?

- Individuals
- TNR & adoption groups
- Hoarders
- North Texas unless national disaster
- Animal Services organizations
At In Take:

- **REMEMBER:** A feral cat is not a pet
- Give them a place to hide
- A small carrier – a secure place – provides a way to move the cat
- **DO NOT TRY TO HANDLE A FERAL CAT**
- Transfer from a trap directly into a cage with a hidey box
Feral Cats at Animal Services

OK – Now What?

- Is the cat micro-chipped?
- Does this cat have a tipped left ear?
- Did this cat come from a registered feral colony?
- Is there an rescue organization doing any barning in your area?
- Does your animal services organization have a barn-home program?
Feral Cat Relocation from Animal Services

- **Medical**
  - Sterilized with ear tip
  - Tested negative for feline leukemia
  - Rabies and distemper shots

- **Interview**
  - Does someone live on the property?
  - Is there a protected room, stall or cage to contain the cat so it can become acclimated before release?
  - Not all barns are created equal
Feral Cat Relocation from Animal Services

- Successful Relocation
  - Got to be contained for 2 weeks
  - Get to know the new environment -- animals and people
  - This is their new food source – not just mice!
  - Safe place away from raccoons, etc.

- Protection from Predators
  - Great Pyrenees
  - Donkey
  - Llama
Feral Cat Relocation from Animal Services

- Long-Term Protection
  - Hidey place
  - Up high
  - Get away from predators
  - Be aware of ants!
Feral Cat Relocation from Animal Services

- Long-Term Protection
  - Feeder / Waterer
  - Cat Ladder
  - Winter hidey box
  - Litter box
  - Beds / Boxes / Tubs

- Be Aware of the Weather
  - Is there electricity in the barn?
  - Heat lamps
  - Heaters
  - Insulated hidey box
  - Freezing water in winter
Feral Cat Relocation from Animal Services

- Finding Locations for Relocation
  - www.ohorse.com
  - Local Horse Clubs (Arabian, Paint, etc.)
  - Dairy Farms
  - Sheep and Goat Farms
  - People who raise chickens and/or rabbits
  - Plant Nurseries
  - Rock Yards & Landscapers
  - Backyards & Gardens
  - Sheds & Warehouses
Feral Cat Relocation from Animal Services

- Unusual Locations for Relocation
  - Dallas Heritage Center
  - Home Depot Nursery
  - Dallas Gun Club
  - Crossroads Polo Club
  - Country Club Golf Courses
  - School Agriculture Barns
  - Therapeutic Riding Locations
  - Winery
  - Vehicle Repair Yards
Feral Cats at Animal Services

Best Option:

Partner with an organization in your area that does barning because they will:

- Find the barns.
- Interview the barn owner.
- Deliver the cats.
- Provide any equipment needed.
- Pick up and clean the equipment.
Feral Cats at Animal Services

Problems:

- The group may not be able to take all your feral cats at the time you have them.
- They should not ever take kittens for a barn.
- Do you have the resources to get the vet work done before the cats are released?
- Could your municipality provide any support and/or funds to the group?
Humane Group Resources

Not all groups are created equal…

- What is their mission? You want one that JUST DOES BARNING.
- It is physically impossible to do barning and also do TNR, adoptions, etc. … there are just not enough hours in the day.
1. Barn Cats Inc, info@barncats.org, www.barncats.org  972-315-2875
37 North Texas counties around Dallas/Fort Worth and 5 counties in Oklahoma along the Red River

2. Texas Barn Cats  210-232-2790 or 210-378-9036 info@texasbarncats.org
www.texasbarncats.org  area 100 miles radius of San Antonio – located in Bulverde, TX

3. Barn Cats Buddies part of the Humane Society of Central Texas (Waco) 254-754-1454
www.humanesocietycentraltexas.org  Area around Waco
Humane Group Resources

4. Austin Pets Alive!  barncats@austinpetsalive.org
   www.austinpetsalive.org  1156 West Cesar Chavez, Austin, TX 7870  512-961-6519

5. Austin Humane Society – Leticia Stivers
   lstivers@austinhumanesociety.org
   www.austinhumanesociety.org  512-646-7387

6. Feral Cat Alliance of Texas  (979) 862-4569 or
   (979) 450-5467  AFCAT@cvm.tamu.edu
   Mail: Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences  TAMU 4458
   College Station, TX 77843-4458
Humane Group Resources

7. Helotes Humane Society, P.O. Box 908 Helotes, TX 78023 Phone: 210-422-6242 Email address: hhsanimals@yahoo.com

8. Texas Humane Heroes – formerly Humane Society of Williamson County, Kynama Wald at kwald@hswc.net

National Resource for Feral Cats

Alley Cat Allies
7920 Norfolk Avenue, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814-2525
Phone: 240-482-1980
Animal Services Resources

1. San Antonio Animal Care Services, contact Jean at 210-207-6644

2. Denton Animal Services, contact Dallas Newell at dallas@unt.edu or Animal Services at 940-349-7594
3. Pasadena Animal Services, contact Lou Ann Nolan 281-991-0602 X20


5. City of Georgetown, Georgetown Animal Shelter at (512) 930-3592 or email jackie.carey@georgetown.org

6. Tomball Save Our Strays (SOS), info@Tomballsos.org
Search

- Barn Cats, Inc.
- Barn Cats
- Barncats

- Texas Farm Bureau
- America’s Heartland TV
- Ellis County On-Line Magazine
Feral Cat Relocation from Animal Services

So, what is the best option for your municipal Animal Services organization?

- Is there a barning organization in your area?
- Could your municipality provide some assistance to that organization if they agree to take all or a percentage of your feral cats?
- Are resources available to pay for the vetting that is needed to place a feral cat?
The Feral Relocation Handbook

If your organization decides to do provide cats to barn owners, you need to provide some sort of “instructions” to make the relocation successful.

- Containment to get acclimated
- Needs of the cats following release
- Hidey place for the cats
- Protection from predators
- On-going requirements of the cats
- Long-term medical needs
The Feral Relocation Handbook

Sent an email to info@barncats.org and a softcopy will be sent to you when the document is completed.
Questions?

Join the Barn Cat Blog at

http://barncatslewisville.blogspot.com/
“Got Rats? We have Cats!”

Thank You!