



## **BARN CAT ADOPTION POLICY**

**PURPOSE:** To provide a consistent policy for staff, volunteers and the public regarding the procedures in adopting a barn cat from the Claresholm Animal Rescue Society.

**POLICY:** The Claresholm Animal Rescue Society's operates a barn cat program according to the following guidelines.

### **GUIDELINES:**

1. Barn cats are cats that cannot live as house pets. Barn cats must be 6 months of age or older. Cats can fall into five categories:
  - cats whose litter box habits make them unsuitable for house pets,
  - cats who have a continued history of attacking or biting staff and volunteers,
  - cats who are shy or fearful of people and prefer the company of other cats and animals, and
  - TNR program (Trap Neuter Return) cats that cannot be returned to their area.
2. Cats that are suitable to be house pets are not adopted to barns, only cats without other options.
3. Cats who have been assessed by management to be a barn cat candidate will be added to a list and advertised as such. The assessment process will evaluate the following criteria:
  - ability to pick up, handle, pet and interact with the cat,
  - cat's attitude towards humans,
  - cat's behaviour with humans,
  - health condition,
  - litter box habits.
4. An acute or ongoing medical condition prevents a cat from being part of the barn cat program.
5. Cats that have been declawed are also disqualified as part of the barn cat program.

6. The barn cat program reaches out to those with a working barn or safe, heated outbuilding. Having a barn cat or cats will help keep down the rodent population. The potential adopter will have to provide the cat a safe, warm building, access to clean water and supplement their diet with cat food.
7. A listing of cats eligible to go to barns will be kept at the shelter. An application (see attached) will be filled out by the interested party. The cat adoptions leader will review and make decisions on the application.
8. Barn cats will be altered and vaccinated.
9. Staff and volunteers may visit the potential barn space to examine it prior to approving the application.
10. Staff and volunteers will give the barn cat adopter information on acclimatizing the cat to its new surroundings to give the cat and owner the best chance of a successful adoption.
11. Cats may graduate from the barn cat program to the regular cat adoption program or the foster program given time and changes in their behaviour.
12. Barn cat adoption fees will be set by the Board of Directors and communicated to staff and volunteers when the amount has changed.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

\_\_\_\_\_