



## **Caring For Your New Working Cat**

Although you are adopting your new cat to live completely or primarily outdoors, you are also taking on the guardianship and responsibility of a companion animal. Your new cat is a domestic animal, and will rely on you daily for shelter, food and water, and medical care.

### **Acclimation**

During the first several weeks of your cat's arrival, your cat will rely on you to appropriately acclimate him/her to the new environment. You will need to check on your cat several times per day during this time period to ensure the cat is safe and healthy. Please refer to our handout, *Acclimating Your New Barn Cat*.

### **Identification**

Your new cat will either be implanted with a microchip, or be ear tipped. If your cat is social, and likely to wander, we also recommend that you place a safety break-away cat collar on your new cat with an ID tag that includes your phone number and address to avoid having your cat taken to the shelter by a neighbor or well-meaning Samaritan.

### **Veterinary Care**

Your new cat was spayed/neutered before being placed with you, was tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), and received a rabies vaccine. It is very important to understand that your outdoor cat is at a much higher risk for health issues including parasites, and injuries. We recommend maintaining an ongoing relationship with a veterinarian to plan for any medical care that can be completed depending on how cooperative your cat may be. If possible, we recommend flea preventative and vaccinations. Please be aware that you may need to trap a severely injured or ill outdoor cat for treatment or humane euthanasia.

### **Guardianship**

Outdoor cats experience more dangers, such as getting injured by cars or other animals, developing illness, or suffering harm from the elements. It is important to routinely check on the well-being of your cat and making adjustments to their shelter or care as necessary. If you are unable to continue caring for your cat at any time, it is your responsibility to find appropriate placement for the cat or ensure that a new resident will continue care. The Toledo Area Humane Society can also put you in touch with other potential homes that may be willing to take over care/guardianship.