

SOME GUIDELINES FOR RE-LOCATION/PLACEMENT OF FERAL CATS

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Generally, it is not advisable to try to re-locate a feral to another outdoor location, if you can even find a suitable location. There are few options for relocating ferals, but if you happen to get really lucky and find someone willing to take them, they will have to be confined at first to adapt to their new location. Cats are territorial animals and form strong bonds with the location they inhabit. A food source exists in the area and the cats are acclimated to local conditions. Relocating feral cats is a difficult, time-consuming, and challenging undertaking. However, I know that sometimes it is necessary.

Alley Cat Allies is an excellent source/guide for all kinds of feral cat help and information: Please see their instructions on relocating: <https://www.alleycat.org/community-cat-care/relocation-the-last-resort/>

Whatever you do, do NOT take any feral cat or kitten to the Arizona Humane Society or the County Shelter-- they have no time, use or concern for ferals and will euthanize them immediately. No rescue group will take (has room for) an animal that is not adoptable. So, the only other option is to take them yourself and adapt them to living inside. *More info on what to do if you find feral kittens and adapting ferals to living inside can be found on the Kind to Nature website.*

- ♥ Find someone in your area to take over the feeding at their present location. There are a couple groups on Facebook you might try. In particular, Feral Cats of Arizona is a good source: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/852219251538983> (it's a private group but easy to join with a relevant purpose), **but be discerning and screen/research prospective helpers/takers before giving anyone your cat(s)!** Be wary of those looking to take cats for free, dump them somewhere or even use for nefarious purposes. Look for someone who others recommend and well known in the TNR/feral community.
- ♥ If they can't stay on the property where they are currently being fed, and you found another suitable nearby location, try gradually moving the feeding station a little at a time to get them to the new location.

Whether you have a group, or just one feral or feral-acting cat to place.

- ♥ I have done 2 things over the years providing shelter and care for ferals that were in an unsafe location and/or lost their caretaker to consider.

(1) Create a confined living space on your property like a cattery or catio. Years ago, I adapted a small block storage building on my property to a cattery – a fully enclosed and secure outdoor area with access to an indoor area that is cooled in the summer and heated in the winter. You can also create a catio on your patio or elsewhere. <http://bestfriends.org/Resources/Pet-Care/Cats/Living-with-Your-Cat/Catteries-and-Catios/> Or just do a search for “Catios” for more ideas.

(2) I have also been relatively successful in adapting a large number of feral cats and kittens to living inside and encourage you to try this since it is very hard to find placement for cats with behavior issues. All are quite happy being inside and most use the boxes and behave pretty well, some allow me to pet them but that's it, some have become pets and some never really come around to human touch or closeness, but have adjusted to the feeding routine, don't cause trouble, do use the boxes, etc. I have become used to the fact that they all don't turn into cuddly lap cats, but some have surprised me. *Some people will tell you that only young kittens can be socialized, but I have to disagree. I've had some young ones that never come around and some older kittens and adults that become quite friendly. Most are in between and lucky is the person who appreciates these cats for what they are, happy to have saved them from a harsh and short life outside.* Two most important things you must remember when attempting to transition an outside/feral cat to living inside: one is to confine in a pretty small, covered, secure place for starters and gradually expand their space before just letting them loose in a house; the second is patience, patience, patience. Ferals are different! I can also offer some tips for introducing cats to each other (and dogs) and keeping the peace in the household if you decide to proceed in that direction.

- ♥ Transfer them to a sanctuary or working/barn cat placement. Keep in mind, there are so many requests for help such as yours, that it is very difficult to find room with anyone on short notice. Be sure to offer as generous a donation as possible to help influence one of these places to take them, and consider the option of placing 2-3 at different places if you have a large group. *Please note: primarily white and light colored cats are generally not considered for barn/working cats.* Please only deal with someone who has experience with these placements and sincerely cares about the cats wellbeing. Following are some sanctuaries recommended for those in the Phoenix/Arizona area:

- Ark Cat Sanctuary (in Flagstaff)
- All About Animals (barn cat program)
- Best Friends Animal Society (Kenab, Utah)
- Bradshaw Mountain Sanctuary
- Echo Canyon Equine Foundation (barn cats)
- Kitty City (part of Wildhorse Rescue Ranch in Gilbert)
- The Poppy Foundation (Las Vegas, NV)
- Purradise Ranch, Inc.
- Save the Cats

- ♥ Seek help from a local TNR individual or organization. *See the Resources page of our website.*