



OPERATION FIRE CAT *Placement Program*



Acclimation & Release Info

Once approved by the OFCPP team, caretakers will receive an Acclimation & Release packet which will include detailed instructions and a release checklist to follow!

Here's a brief summary of what you'd find in your Acclimation & Release packet:

During their acclimation, we ask that you tend to the cats daily. This involves feeding, watering, and cleaning their litter boxes at the same time of day, when possible. It's also recommended to talk to them so that they get used to your voice and associate you with food. You'll want to "charm" them and convince them that your place is the best place! It generally takes at least three weeks for the cats to feel comfortable and memorize their new space so that when you do release them, even if they wander, they will know where they are and where to return to when it's time to come home!

We'll give you a guide to assess the cats at the three-week-mark, and based on that information we can help you decide whether or not to release them or let them acclimate a little longer. It's also imperative that you continue to feed the cats daily after they are released onto the property.

A common question we get is whether or not the cats will warm up to their new homes and families? Research shows that when the cats are acclimated for 3 weeks, they are 75% likely to stay and accept their new outdoor home. That number jumps up to 90% when acclimated for 4 weeks. While we occasionally see some signs of affection from the cats during their time with us, it's typically unclear whether or not the cats will warm up to allow petting, handling, being picked up, etc. It's best to have low expectations and be pleasantly surprised by the blossoming of their purr-sonalities, than to expect a lot of affection from them and be disappointed.