

What is a Mouser?

MOUSERS AREN'T YOUR TYPICAL HOUSE CAT. THEY ARE CATS THAT SPEND SOME LEVEL OF TIME OUTSIDE. THEY RANGE IN TEMPERAMENT LEVELS:

PART-TIME HOUSE CAT

Minimum work, all play
These cats spend their time indoors and outdoors, on their own schedule.

PORCH CAT

Some work, mostly play
These cats prefer to spend most of their time outside but enjoy human interaction

YARD CAT

Equal amounts of work and play
These cats prefer to spend all of their time outside and are indifferent to human interaction.

ALLEY CAT

Mostly work, some play
These cats spend their time outside, with minimal human interaction.

PEST CONTROL CAT

All work, minimum play
These cats spend their time outside hunting. They will avoid most human interaction.



Mouser Acclimation Guide:

Mousers, also known as barn cats or working cats, can be an important asset to your shop or property. They can help control the rodent population while also keeping unaltered cats from colonizing your property. When introducing your mouser to their new environment, they must be allowed the proper acclimation time. This involves keeping the cats housed in a crate with a litter box, food and water, and a den to hide in. Small, confined, climate-controlled spaces like tack rooms or workshops are also suitable, as long as the cats can't escape on their own accord! Proper introduction provides a safe environment for your mouser to explore his new environment, reducing the chance of becoming lost in an unfamiliar area.

Below are the steps we recommend following to properly introduce your mouser to their new home/work environment:

Establish a Safe Space

To support your cat's transition and help him slowly develop a sense of security in his new space, it's important to have an enclosure prepared when he arrives. We recommend a large crate or other secure enclosure. The enclosure should be:

- set up in your shop, barn, outbuilding, or whatever space he will be calling "home." Using an enclosure will allow him time to acclimate to the sights, sounds, and smells of his new environment.
- protected from very hot or cold conditions and allow enough room to house the following items: food and water bowls; litter pan (clay litter is better than clumping); cardboard box to use as a hiding space; blankets/sheets to cover the outside of the crate

When transferring the cat into his enclosure, it's important to take appropriate measures to reduce the chance your cat will escape. Remember, he will likely be stressed and anxious. To safely transfer:

- place the door of the carrier immediately next to, or inside of, the opening of the enclosure.
- open the door and wait for him to leave the crate.

-close the door to the enclosure quickly once the cat leaves the crate

An acclimation period of 2-4 weeks in the enclosure is recommended. Longer confinement periods are unnecessary and may even jeopardize your acclimation efforts. If confined for too long, the cat may run away upon release, from fear of being confined again.

During this time, offer him wet food twice daily in addition to his water and dry food. This will help build trust between you and the cat.

- when offering wet food, use a voice signal like “here kitty” or another call you will use consistently in the future when offering wet food–this will set the groundwork for the cat to come around at feeding time once he’s been released from the enclosure.
- feel free to spend time quietly talking to the cat.

Don’t try to pet or pick up the cat as this may increase his anxiety and cause him to scratch or bite.

If your cat does escape from his enclosure before the acclimation period is over, set food and water out around the barn/shop. Cats often hide for some time but usually stay on the premises. Leave plenty of food and water out to encourage the escapee to stay close.

Transitioning Out of the Enclosure

After the confinement period, open the enclosure door and allow the cat to come out on his own. This may take time. He has likely become comfortable in the enclosure and may not want to leave while you are present.

- once the cat is out of the enclosure, leave it set up with the door open in the same spot for approximately a week. This will allow him to explore while still preserving a safe and familiar space.
- continue filling the food and water bowls while offering wet food (with your voice signal) once a day in the crate.
- once you notice that the cat is finding new spots to hide, or appears to be acclimated to his new space, feel free to slowly move the food and water bowls outside of the enclosure to a more convenient location.

After two more weeks, the cat should be comfortable in their new home and the cage and supplies can be taken away. Some mouser caregivers keep litter pans inside their barns but often are rarely used. Caring for your mouser is as easy as providing fresh food and water daily. Remember that, while they may be quite self-sufficient, mousers still need a nutrient-rich diet to sustain a healthy life. Fresh, healthy food, clean water, and shelter from the elements should always be available to your cat.