



## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

### **What is the Cats Clocking In program?**

Cats Clocking In was created to help individuals and local businesses adopt cats who are best suited to providing pest control services. Cats in the program end up at LASCC because they are unwanted and cannot be adopted as pets. By hiring these hardworking felines you'll save lives and help Lafayette Parish reach its no-kill goal. They only want to be given a second chance, and will work hard to be the best employees you have ever had!

Cats adopted out through Cats Clocking In include:

- Outdoor cats who are no longer welcome at their current home.
- Cats who are social but often feisty when interacting with people.
- Cats who are shy or fearful of people, and prefer the company of other cats and animals.

### **What is the cost to adopt working cats?**

If your application is approved, the adoption fee will be waived.

### **What will LASCC and WCF provide?**

Cats will be spayed/neutered, ear-tipped, vaccinated against rabies, and microchipped. As the cats must spend 2-3 weeks in a secure enclosure, acclimation crates will be provided if you do not have an appropriate space available. Approved applicants will be contacted by a representative to arrange a time to transport the cats to your property.

### **What must I provide my working cats?**

Your cats will require an initial 2-3 week adjustment period in an enclosed space to help train them for their new job. Working cats must be provided with daily food and water, as well as protection from the elements (rain, cold, and intense heat) and predators. The cats will need an appropriate place to eliminate, such as an outdoor area or a regularly cleaned litter box. You are responsible for providing future medical care; if you are unable to trap your cat for veterinary care, WildCat Foundation will provide trapping assistance.

### **Why do the cats require an acclimation period?**

These cats were recently evicted from their previous home, and will experience a strong instinct to try and return there. The acclimation period helps them adjust to the smells and sounds of their new environment, and will teach them to expect food and shelter on your property. During the acclimation period, your daily visits to feed, water, and change their litter will help the cats to recognize you as their caregiver.

**Why must I provide food?**

Since there is no guarantee of how much prey will be available to them from day to day, the cats cannot be expected to live on their hunting catches alone. After a time, the presence of the cats will deter many rodents from coming to your property in the first place. Providing food will also encourage the cats remain on your property and to bond with you.

**Why must I adopt two or more working cats?**

Cats born in the wild naturally form colonies and live communally. An only cat may become lonely and start to wander in search of company. Your working cats will adjust more easily to their new environment when they have a trusted feline companion.

**Will the cats be friendly?**

Working cats are different from house pets. Some will enjoy receiving attention, and many will interact with their caregivers at feeding time but otherwise keep their distance. Your cats may become more social over time, or will remain wary of people. Cats for hire are generally either: Semi-feral - cats who are familiar with people but lack social skills. Most do not want to be held and are unsuitable as an indoor pet.

Feral - cats who live outdoors and have not been socialized with people. They would rather be in the background catching mice than interacting with you.