

Working Cat Program

Got rodents or snakes? Consider adopting a working cat! The goal of our Working Cat Program is to place cats that are unadoptable through our regular adoption program into outdoor living arrangements where they can provide rodent control services in exchange for basic care. These cats are generally under-socialized and do not like human contact.

This life saving program will enable us to save more cats and will allow community members access to a safe alternative for rodent control. Typically, these cats were euthanized because most of our adopters prefer social, affectionate cats however, during the first 6 months of implementation we had **a 75% reduction in the euthanasia of feral and semi feral cats!**

Stipulations:

- Working cats will be vaccinated, microchipped, spayed or neutered, and ear tipped.
- Caregivers must be committed to providing food, water and shelter from the elements.
- Caregivers must own property or have landowner's approval.
- Cats must be securely confined to their new location for 2 weeks prior to release. If not properly acclimated to their surroundings before release the cat is not likely to stay on your property.
- We can loan you a large dog crate to confine your new working cats during the 2 week acclimation period. The crate must be returned within 21 days of rental. There is no fee unless the crate is not returned or is destroyed while at your property.

Where can working cats be utilized?

- barns/farms
- warehouses
- storage facilities
- businesses
- your home

How to adopt a working cat:

- There is no adoption fee for qualifying working cats thanks to our partnership with Friends of Madison County Animals and a grant from Maddie's Fund Million Cat Challenge!
- If you are interested in having working cats please give us a call at 828.649.3190 or email us at shelter@madisoncountync.gov . We will let you know if we have any working cats available at that time or we can put you on a waiting list.
- Our working cats have varying degrees of socialization. You can choose how socialized or unsocialized you'd like your working cats to be but keep in mind, even the most scared feral cat can become a friendly pet given enough time in comfortable surroundings.