

HSSV Barn Buddy Program



The Humane Society of Skagit Valley (HSSV) Barn Buddy Program was established to find feline friendly homes for cats who, for various reasons, would not do well as indoor only companion pets and are considered unadoptable through our standard adoption process. Cats who are placed into our Barn Buddy Program fall in these main categories:

- Cats who were found as strays who are assessed to be unsuitable for an indoor only life. These cats may have demonstrated behavior such as being overly feisty, extremely shy/fearful of people, extremely independent, or shown other behavior indicating an indoor only life would not be suitable for them.
- Owner surrendered cats who lived or spent considerable time outside who are unable to adapt to indoor life.
- Owner surrendered cats who were indoor cats but exhibit behavior that make them more suitable as an outdoor or indoor/outdoor cat.

These cats need a safe home in a barn, stable, farmhouse, shop, other outbuilding, or sheltered porch where they can live an outdoor or indoor/outdoor life. Some of these cats are very people friendly, some start out shy and fearful but over time become friendly, and others might remain fearful of people and prefer the company of other cats. To the extent possible, we try to find a good match between Barn Buddy cats and their adopters. In most cases, we recommend that at least two cats are adopted together – ideally cats who have formed a bond or at least get along with each other. They can provide each other with companionship and help keep one another safe, plus they can snuggle together to help keep warm. Adopting two or more cats together also helps to ensure a successful transition where they accept and stay at their new home. Over time, with care and attention, these cats may become quite affectionate.



How to Care for Your Barn Buddy Cats:

- ❖ Keep your barn buddy cats enclosed in their new home (e.g., barn, shop, etc.) for about 2 weeks. If it's a very large building, you might want to set up a smaller enclosed area (e.g., the size of a horse stall, den, or small office room) within the building for the 2 week period. Your goal during this time is to help the cats become familiar with the new sights, sounds, and smells and to associate their new home as their sanctuary – a place they want to be.
 - Your barn buddy cats are dependent on being fed every day. Provide each cat with about 1 cup of dry kibble per day and make sure they have fresh water.
 - Feeding your barn buddy cats wet food as a treat is a great way to entice them out of hiding and to help them connect with you. Spraying a little catnip mist on your legs is another way to entice your barn buddies to come closer to you and maybe rub against your legs.
 - Make sure each of your barn buddy cats has a safe space with dry bedding to help keep him/her warm. Wet cotton will draw the heat out of your cat, so do not use cotton unless you regularly replace it when it gets wet. Straw is a good insulator, and some of our barn buddy cats are used to straw bedding.
 - Your barn buddy cats will likely want a place to hide right away. Make sure that, within their new home/enclosed area, there are places where they can hide and feel safe (e.g., kennels, boxes, straw bales, wood structures, etc.). Some cats might not get along, so if you have more than one barn buddy, please be sure that they have enough space to get away from one another and each has a hide-out/safe space.
 - Provide a litter box for your barn buddy cats while they are enclosed in their new home. Make sure the litter box is large enough for them to use successfully.
- ❖ After about 2 weeks, let your barn buddy cats explore the area outside their new home so they can become familiar with the surrounding area. Make sure they always have access to their new home (barn, shop, etc.) for food, water, shelter, warmth and safety. Continue to feed each cat about 1 cup of dry kibble each day and make sure they have fresh water.
- ❖ Always provide food and fresh water for your barn buddy cats. A well-nourished cat is more likely to maintain good health and be a good mouser than an under-nourished cat.

Interested in Adopting Barn Buddy Cats? Please contact us at:

Humane Society of Skagit Valley: 360-757-0445 or info@skagithumane.org



Meet a Few Barn Buddy “Happy New Beginnings”

Simon



Simon and Peanut enjoy their new life on a horse ranch on Camano Island. They’ve become best friends, playmates, and snuggle mates. Simon brings his person his “catch of the day” as a sign of their appreciation for being given a *home on the ranch* and for all the care and attention they get.

Peanut



Greyson



Greyson is quite happy in his new life snuggling under the covers, showing his new people how sweet he is! Greyson showed up in the Barn Buddy Program, but he’s actually a Yurt Buddy. He really wanted to have a person to bond with, and now he has two favorite people to snuggle with in his yurt home. Plus, he has the freedom to be outdoors and keep tabs on what’s going on around the property.

More Barn Buddy “Happy New Beginnings”

Nova and Flash



In their new life together, Nova and Flash are best friends and love hanging out under the heat lamps with their barn mate – a tortoise. Both Nova and Flash are very people friendly and needed a home where they could get lots of attention and also demonstrate their affection. Their new family is happily enjoying Flash’s charm and Nova’s very endearing way. Flash and Nova are enjoying all the attention they get and are grateful to be considered part of the family!

Saran

Saran was one of our senior Barn Buddies who needed a special home. He had some health issues that needed attention, and he has somewhat limited mobility. In his new life, he’s a porch and entryway cat, enjoying a heated cat house that also has a soft electric heating pad to provide comfort and warmth. It took some time to gain Saran’s trust, but now Saran likes his person to sit on the porch alongside him so he can step into the comforts of a nice warm lap.

