

Wild Felid Advocacy Center of Washington



Safe Haven

Unfortunately, there are times when captive wild felines become displaced. The **Wild Felid Advocacy Center of Washington** strives to assist in proper placement.

- Situations may arise when a private owner or facility may no longer be able to care for a cat (owner's serious illness, death, financial considerations, etc.)
- Laws are changing rapidly in this country which may tragically necessitate the movement of a cat from an otherwise responsible and caring home.
- Confiscation by authorities of cats in illegal or harmful situations.



Next: Rehoming Wild Cats



Rehoming Wild Cats

“ Why don’t you return it to the wild?”

This is a question we are frequently asked and to those who do know wild cats it would seem an appropriate one.

The truth is... it is impossible and would mean a certain death sentence for the cat!

- Most importantly, it would be illegal!
- Secondly, these felines have been born and raised in captivity. They know no other life and have bonded with humans to meet their daily needs.
- They do not know how to hunt and contrary to belief it doesn’t just come naturally to them.
- Being used to living in close proximity with humans and other animals they do not possess the natural fear of them that truly “wild” animals have.
- Captive wild felines we receive at WFAC are frequently declawed, neutered or spayed. Even if they did understand the mechanics of hunting to survive, they are further diminished by not being able to climb trees or properly grasp prey. Continued



Rehoming Wild Cats

- Animals in the wild have set territories. If a native American wild cat were released chances are it would be in an area already occupied by others of its species and there would be a fight for territory – most likely resulting in the death of the cat that does not truly understand this concept. Nor would they understand that they would be considered as prey by other animals.
- These felines have led a “captive” life since birth and to deny that would be cruel.

Is a Rehomed Wild Cat Happy?

Each situation and cat are different! We know that all species of wild felines form strong bonds with their Caregiver. It is difficult for



Them to be uprooted from the life they have known and be trusting in a new situation. Depending on the cats’ temperament, it is easier for some than others.

And it depends greatly on the new life it has found itself in! Zoo or large facility cats may make the adjustment relatively easier – once they recover from the stress of being moved. The flip side of this is a cat who was raised in a loving home and suddenly finds itself in a zoo, animal shelter or large facility. These cats are going to suffer extreme culture shock.



Rehoming Wild Cats



*This is “Buddy” the bobcat – fishing for goldfish! He came to live at **the Wild Felid Advocacy Center** when his former owner suffered a stroke and could no longer care for him.*

The photo of “Buddy” above illustrates a situation where special understanding was needed. Buddy had always been fed roasted chicken – nothing raw or whole. At the Wild Felid Advocacy Center we do not believe his previous diet was adequate. When offered an appropriate diet he was not interested, nor did he have any idea what it was! We spent weeks continuing to roast chicken for him daily (bones removed). Little by little small bits of raw food were integrated in with his diet. Finally at six weeks of this diet... Bingo! He took the raw diet like he had never eaten before in his life.

He is an excellent example of a rehomed wild cat who has made a wonderful readjustment to his new (and forever) surroundings. He is always playing and has a big purr for everyone.