

NEW! INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE CYCLE KITS

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CATERPILLARS (LARVAE) (CATS)



Arrival Day:

- * Start by showing the students how small the larvae are. At this stage your cats are three to five days old.
- * **Do not transfer larvae immediately when you receive them. We recommend you wait up to five days after you receive the larvae to do the transfer as there is plenty of food in there. You may also use the container and food they come on as extra food for extra larvae.**
- * They will soon appear darker and active this is the best time to transfer them. Do not transfer the caterpillars if they are motionless as they may be going through an instar. This is when they moult their skin and grow.
- * **Put your caterpillar food in the fridge.** In 3 to 5 days take it out to warm up to room temp.

Transferring Larvae: DAY THREE TO FIVE

- * Your cats should be active. Count the number of caterpillars and divide the food evenly. There may be up to 27 cats.
- * Wipe any moisture off the food with a paper towel. Using a knife, cut the chunks evenly to the number of cats you have and divide it between the small containers. Transfer the food first, then the larvae, using the paintbrush. Then place the paper over the container and close the lid tightly.
- * You can place two cats in one container and just add its' extra chunk of food.
- * Remember to keep the lids securely on at all times as they are little escape artists.
- * Take care not to shake or tip the container after the food and caterpillars are placed inside so the food does not roll on top of the little critters.
- * We do not recommend that you assign one caterpillar to each student. This project is best enjoyed as a group project.
- * We ship extra cats in case of losses. If you experience losses of 30% or more please contact us immediately.

Larvae: CATERPILLARS GET BIGGER

- * Please leave the containers on a shelf at room temperature **away from direct sunlight.** Sunlight will cause condensation and excess moisture is not healthy for the caterpillars.
- * The caterpillars will keep on eating the special diet, which is a combination of soy, wheat germ and other nutrients for a several days. Caterpillar droppings look like little balls also know as "frass."
- * When the caterpillar has eaten **more than half its' food** you can sweep out the webbing and the frass. Make sure to leave the remaining food chunk for him or her to eat. You may rest the caterpillar on the lid while you do this sweeping. Make sure to put the paper back under the lid for humidity control. If you need to replace the paper for any reason, use clean, dry coffee filter paper.