



BARN OWL NEST BOX PLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Cal Poly Humboldt
Barn Owl Research Team



Installation & Placement Tips

- Late summer/fall installation is best
- Metal pole at least 3 meters off the ground
- Wooden box at least 24+" tall
- With uncultivated habitats nearby (esp. grasslands & oak savannas)
- Without much forest or urban areas nearby
- Away from houses & busy roads
- Greater than 100 feet apart
- "Colonization" can take 1-3 years, look for bones underneath
- Owl boxes can be purchased or built
www.napawildliferescue.org/barn-owl-maintenance
www.wildfarmalliance.org/barn_owl_nest_box_plans



Cleaning & Maintenance Tips

- Inspect boxes yearly in the non-breeding season (late summer - early fall)
- Check hardware & fix normal deterioration
- Clean out pellet debris if box was used, leave small layer of pellets, wood chips, or straw
- Wear an N95, goggles, & a Tyvek suit when cleaning
Don't disturb boxes with owls present!



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