

## Winter Shelter Cat Tips & Tricks

Thank you for caring for community cats in need! Below are some tips for keeping cats safe, warm, fed, and watered during the winter!

### Placement of Winter Shelters

Put the shelters in a familiar location where the cats are already used to spending time. Placing them near where the cats are fed has the advantage of limiting how far they'll have to travel to eat during inclement weather, however, don't place it DIRECTLY next to or really close to the shelter as food can and will draw predators.

Don't put the shelters out in the open, like in the middle of a yard or lot, but under or against something, like a wall, fence, tree, porch or some type of overhang. Ideally, the spot will be out of the wind but still exposed to the sun. Encourage your cats to start using the shelters by sprinkling catnip at the entrances.

To prevent flooding, raise the shelters off the ground by placing them on pallets, bricks or similar, but make sure they're stable and not wobbly. Most shelters, especially if made of Styrofoam, will be lightweight so weigh them down by placing one or more heavy objects on top, like concrete bricks, but don't put too much weight on and damage the roof.

If you have more than one shelter, position two of them so the doorways are facing each other a short distance apart. Place a board on top of the shelters to cover the space between them. Having the shelters face each other will help break the wind and the board spanning the gap between them will protect against rain and snow, plus create a little clear area where you can put food and water if necessary.



What you put food and water in can make a difference. A thick plastic water container that's deep and wide is better-insulated than a thin plastic or ceramic container. A solar-heated water bowl can prevent or delay water and canned food from freezing. \*Feed canned and dry KITTEN food in the winter for more calories!\*

Don't put water bowls or food inside the shelter. Water is easily spilled, and a wet shelter will feel more like a refrigerator than a warm haven. Do your best to [keep water from freezing](#).

You can also buy [Heated Water Bowls on Amazon.com](#)

If you have questions or need help with Trap Neuter Return (TNR) please reach out to Watching Over Whiskers (WOW) at 417.324.4486 or email [whiskers.fund@gmail.com](mailto:whiskers.fund@gmail.com) to request assistance.