



## **ALL ABOUT ANIMALS RESCUE**

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501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization

Tax I.D. # 20-3006686

**all about  
animals**

**No More Homeless Pets!**

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## **Winter Community Cat Shelter Tips**

- Shelter sizing – shelter should be small enough to allow the cat's body heat to help keep the shelter warm. Cat needs to be able to stand up and turn around. Too much space and the heat dissipates.
- The door hole is up high so when it snows/rains, it doesn't cover the entrance or flow into the hole.
- Fill shelters about 1/2 to 3/4 full of loose straw and make sure to mat it down a bit around the opening of the shelter so shelter is easy to get in. Tape the top on; all around the seam of the lid.
- Elevating the shelter on top of a pallet or bricks so it's not directly on the ground will be warmer.
- Face the door away from the wind/elements.
- Add something heavy to the top of the shelter to ensure it's steady and doesn't tip or blow over.
- Straw is the best material for bedding. Never use items that can retain moisture & freeze - cats can get frostbite and have been known to freeze to the material. Even condensation from kitty breathing while asleep can cause problems with materials that hold moisture. Make sure it's dry straw. If you think the straw is wet inside the shelter, change it out. Straw and hay are not the same thing. Remember "Straw is for Strays and Hay is for Horses".
- You can add a 'porch' over hang over the door. A sturdy plastic pot or bucket with the bottom cut out works great. Door holes should be 5.5 to 6 inches. Any bigger means unnecessary exposure to the elements and other animals can get in. Any smaller and the cat may not be able to get in.
- Never feed inside of a shelter. Instead, make a separate covered feeding station. Cats require up to 20% more calories in winter and need to drink more water too!
- Having trouble getting them to go in? Try catnip on the entrance ledge and inside.
- Camouflage and hide your shelters. Neighbors and animal control don't want to see them.  
**The less visible the cat colony is, the safer the cats are.**
- **And lastly, but most important – make sure all the cats are sterilized!**  
*To find out more about AAAR programs, services, adoptable pets, charitable estate giving, or the latest news, please contact us at [www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org](http://www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org), join our email list, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or call us at 586-879-1745 (Warren Clinic) 810-780-4978 (Flint Clinic).*