

How YOU can shelter a feral cat this winter

Northern winters are particularly harsh on feral cats and kittens who have not experienced this often bitterly cold season. The feral and homeless cats that do not find suitable shelter face many dangers -- chief among them frostbitten ears and feet. We have seen ears that were so frozen, they actually "broke" and became seriously infected.



A nearly cost-free shelter consisting of a Styrofoam packing case, some contact paper and duct tape, some glue or silicone sealant and hay or straw might help save the life of an otherwise homeless cat.

When completed, the "shelter" should be placed in a spot that is sheltered from wind, snow and rain and in a place where the cat will feel safe. A rock, board or other weighty object should be placed on top. If the area is sheltered sufficiently, an old blanket covering the shelter top and sides is even better.

The homeless cats need food also to survive the winter. Help and feed where you can.

Making the shelter:

1. Get free Styrofoam packing cases from your favorite restaurant (the cases come with fish and meats delivered to the restaurant)
2. Line the entire inside and inside cover with contact paper (the cats are likely to scratch the bare Styrofoam "walls")
3. Saw an entrance hole at one end
4. Cover the edges of the hole with duct tape
5. Seal the cover back on, using silicone sealant (and a caulking gun)
6. Flip "upside down" so that the bottom of the case becomes the "roof"
7. If desired, paint the outside of the shelter
8. Pack straw inside so that the cat can "burrow" in the insulating straw.

