

FEEDING STATIONS

Location

Ideally, the feeding station will be located at a spot which provides the caretaker with regular access but which is NOT visible nor accessible by the public. This protects the cats and makes it easy for them to come and go. Again, adaptability is the key. If you feed in an alley, but it's accessible to others, then try to hide the spot where you feed with a board or piece of wood.

The Station



There should be enough room for one or two cats and the food and water. It should also be covered to protect from rain. One simple idea is a wooden box with a pitched roof, with one side

completely open. Because the station will be outdoors, seal the seams of the box with silicone and give the wood a couple of coats of deck paint or it will quickly rot.

Another idea is to buy a Rubbermaid storage bin and, using a box-cutter, cut out most of one of the long sides, leaving a few inches off the ground to prevent flooding. It's easy to clean because of the removable top and quick to put together.

Small automatic feeders/waterers will fit inside.



SHELTERS



Feral cat shelters require different maintenance depending on the season. **Winter shelters** must be sturdy, preferably large enough to fit 3-4 cats, will require fresh straw every few days (as it will mold) and would greatly benefit from insulation. Here is an example of an adequate winter shelter:

Materials needed include: a large Rubbermaid storage bin, an eight foot by two foot sheet of one-inch thick hard Styrofoam, a yardstick, a box cutter or utility knife, and straw, shredded newspaper or other insulating material. Assemble as follows:

1. Cut a doorway six inches by six inches in one of the long sides of the storage bin towards the corner. To prevent flooding, cut the opening so that the bottom of the doorway is several inches above the ground.
2. Line the floor of the bin with a piece of Styrofoam, using the yardstick and box cutter to cut out the piece.
3. In similar fashion, line each of the four interior walls of the bin with a piece of the Styrofoam. Perfect cuts are not necessary. Don't make the Styrofoam go all the way up to the top of the bin, but leave a uniform gap of at least three inches between the top of these Styrofoam "wall pieces" and the upper lip of the bin. There should be room for an interior Styrofoam "roof" to fit.
4. Cut out a doorway in the Styrofoam where it is lined up with the doorway that has been cut out already in the storage bin. Trace the outline of the doorway on the Styrofoam first before cutting.

5. Stuff the bottom of the bin with straw or other insulating material to hold the Styrofoam interior wall pieces in place.
6. Cut out a Styrofoam "roof" to rest on top of the Styrofoam interior wall pieces
7. Cover the bin with its lid.

This shelter can be cleaned by taking off the lid and the Styrofoam roof. It's also lightweight and may need to be weighed down. A flap over the doorway is optional. Catnip can be sprinkled inside at first to attract the cats.

Summer shelters for feral cats require removal of the insulation and straw.

Placement of the shelter should be in a heavily shaded area, where they can keep as cool as possible. Placing sealed bottles of frozen water inside the shelter may assist in cooling – but must be replaced frequently as they will melt quickly.



For more info please visit:
www.neighborhoodcats.org
www.indyferal.org
www.urbancatleague.org

Feral Cat Shelters & Feeding Stations



Feral, free-roaming, and community cats need **shelters** close to their home base to keep them warm and dry in cold weather and cool and dry in hot weather. They should not have to roam far to potentially dangerous areas just to seek shelter from the elements. This brochure offers quick tips on providing a safe shelter for your feral cats. There are also links to websites featuring their own unique shelter suggestions.

Just like shelters, **feeding stations** for feral cats are unique and crucial to their health and survival. How and where you feed a colony of feral cats can depend on circumstances beyond your control. If they live behind a fence which you can't access, then you're clearly limited in what you can do. If you have access to the cats' territory, but only at inconsistent times, that factor will drive how you feed them. Basically, you try to do the best you can and come as close to the ideal as possible.