



## Tips for Placing a Feral Cat Shelter

1. Try to protect the entrance to the tunnels on the shelter by placing them away from the wind. In the GTA, this generally means that the tunnel should face East.
2. Raise the shelter to keep it out of the rain and snow. Use a wooden pallet, plastic milk boxes, cement blocks, bricks, or lumber
3. Clean, dry straw inside the shelter acts as an insulator – helping to retain the body heat of the cat. Fill  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the shelter with straw and the cat will burrow in and create a warm nest for itself.
4. Make a tent to cover the shelter. This will help keep it dry and offer additional protection from the wind and cold. Put a weight on top of the lid to help firm a peak for the tent. Cut wooden pegs if you have grommets on your tent. Old shower curtains serve well as a tent.
5. Use evergreen branches to weigh down your shelter and to help it blend in with natural surroundings. They can also help to protect the shelter from winter winds. Once they are covered in winter snow, they add greatly to the insulation of the shelter and the warmth.
6. Bank snow around the sides and top of a shelter to provide extra insulation and to hold the shelter in position in fierce winter winds.
7. Don't put food or water inside the shelter. It can dampen and soil the straw.
8. Put a little catnip near the tunnel entrance to draw cats to the shelter. Don't put it inside the shelter.
9. Multiple shelters can be placed facing each other in a square in order to cut down on the wind. A sheet of plywood with a couple of bricks to hold it down will also help to keep the shelters and their tunnels dry.