

# FORGOTTEN Cats



Forgotten Cats, Inc.



2019

## DECEMBER 2018 STATUS UPDATE:

We sterilized **714** cats and placed **270** cats into loving forever homes!



## Winter Weather Tips - Help Stray Cats this Winter

### Can Cats Survive Winter Outdoors?

Yes. Community cats, also called outdoor, stray or feral cats, are well-suited to living outdoors-usually in close proximity to humans-and can survive winter on their own. They are resilient and able to live and

thrive in all varieties of locations, weather conditions, and climates. However, there are still things you can do to help make life outdoors more comfortable. Follow these winter weather tips that lend a helping paw when the weather gets cold.

## Food and Water - How to Feed Feral Cats in Winter

- Cats can benefit from extra food during winter, so increase food portions to help them conserve energy. Also make sure to set out fresh water twice a day.
- Wet food takes less energy to digest, but should be served in plastic containers to prevent freezing. Providing dry food, which will not freeze, works for frigid temperatures, too.
- Warm up canned food and water before serving or use heated electric bowls.
- Use bowls that are deep rather than wide and place them in sunny areas to keep water from freezing. Avoid using metal bowls.
- Spray insulation foam into the underside of plastic feeding dishes and water bowls to help prevent food and water from freezing as quickly.
- Build a feeding station as this is the best way to feed feral cats during the cold months. It will shield food, water, and the cats from the elements. An insulated feeding station that is built in the same fashion as a cat shelter works even better.
- Put a microwavable heating pad, like a Snuggle Safe, under the bowls. You can even make your own homemade heating pad by filling fabric pouches with rice, and heating it in the microwave.
- If there's a water source like a spigot, run the water slightly-it won't freeze as fast as still water. You can also use a water fountain or water bowl with a fountain feature.

## How to Make an Outdoor Feral Cat Winter Shelter

- Cats can find their own shelter, but you can also provide additional options where they can sleep, relax, warm up, and stay safe. Don't worry, building your own outdoor cat shelter can be easy, affordable, and fun! Go to [www.alleycat.org/resources/feral-cat-shelter-options-gallery](http://www.alleycat.org/resources/feral-cat-shelter-options-gallery)
- Shelters don't need to be big or complicated. Bigger shelters aren't always better because heat disperses quickly. A good size shelter should be two feet by three feet and at least 18 inches high, and able to accommodate three to five cats, depending on their size. If only a few cats use the house, make it even smaller so it takes less body heat to warm up.

- The doorway should only be big enough for cats. Putting a door flap over the entry way also keeps out cold air and potential predators. Also make sure the entry way is several inches above ground level to keep out rain and snow.
- Insulate the shelter with straw to repel moisture. Do not use hay, or things like blankets and towels—they soak up moisture like a sponge and make the shelter wet and cold.
- Make sure the shelter is level and elevated off the cold ground for protection from dampness. Face the entry way away from the wind and preferably facing a wall so that only cats can get in and out.
- Check outdoor feral cat winter shelters regularly to make sure they're in good condition. Also check the entrances when there is significant snowfall to ensure the cats don't get snowed in.
- If the kitties aren't using the shelter, try to make it more enticing by sprinkling a little catnip, silver vine, or treats inside.
- Provide more than just one type of shelter. Since certain cats might be more particular about where they like to stay, more than one option is always a good thing.
- If cats still aren't using the outdoor shelters, try to find where they are sleeping and then do what you can there to "upgrade" the spot, such as adding straw.

## **Stray Cat Winter Safety Tips**

- Stray cats in winter gravitate to warm places. Before starting your car, give the hood of your car a few taps to make sure that a cat has not hidden underneath the car or inside the engine for warmth. Also, always check between your tires and wheel wells.
- Do not use antifreeze, which is toxic and deadly, in an area accessible to cats. Keep it out of reach and clean up spills! Most antifreeze brands use ethylene glycol as the main ingredient, so be sure to switch to a brand made with propylene glycol because it is less toxic, though still harmful.
- Refrain from using salt or chemicals to melt snow. These can be lethal when licked off paws or ingested from melting puddles. They also hurt cats' paw pads. Alternatively, pet friendly deicers are available at most pet stores.
- Spaying and neutering improves cats' overall health, and healthier cats are better equipped for the cold elements. However, if you're conducting Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) in the winter, check the traps frequently and provide a warm holding area, pre-and-post surgery. If it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for cats to be in traps, exposed to the elements, for extended periods of time.



## Did You Know?

Female cats tend to be right-pawed, while male cats are more often left-pawed. Interestingly, while 90% of humans are right handed, the remaining 10% of lefties also tend to be male.

## Shopping Avon is an OnGoing Fundraiser for Forgotten Cats

This month we would like to highlight our partnership with Heather Bensen. Heather has been an Avon Representative for 5 and a half years, and this is her full-time business. She has two young daughters ages 10 & 11, and ... 14 cats... thus, her love of the Forgotten Cats, Inc. organization.

Last summer, Heather started her Avon Fundraiser which donates **100%** of her commission to Forgotten Cats. Since then she has made it ongoing (there is no end date to this fundraiser) and the fundraiser has raised over \$300.

Supporters can shop directly through this link:

<https://www.avon.com/fundraiser/forgottencats>

Forgotten Cats Facebook Group  
(where products or sales may be highlighted):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/forgottencatsfundraiser>

# Shop AVON

100% of the proceeds will go to Forgotten Cats!

*Forgotten Cats, Inc.*



## FUNDRAISER

Our friend Heather Benson is an Avon representative, and she's continuing to hold a fundraiser for Forgotten Cats!

For every purchase made, Heather will donate 100% of her commission to Forgotten Cats!

There are **two** ways to participate:

- 1) Type the letters FC after your first name when checking out
- 2) Email or text Heather directly to let her know you're purchasing to support Forgotten Cats, Inc.

Shop here:

[heatherbenson.avonrepresentative.com](http://heatherbenson.avonrepresentative.com)

**Help us by purchasing everyday items like body wash, lotion, deodorant, and more!**

- *skincare • body washes • body lotions*
- *Skin So Soft • Bug Guard • cosmetics*
- *fragrances • candles • fashion & accessories*
- *Health & Wellness • Home Decor*
- *kids' line coming this summer & more!*



Join the Facebook group to ask questions and follow product recommendations:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/forgottencatsfundraiser](https://www.facebook.com/groups/forgottencatsfundraiser)

Shop here:  
[heatherbenson.avonrepresentative.com](http://heatherbenson.avonrepresentative.com)

AVON  
the company for women

**We are grateful to Heather for her fundraising continuing to help our cats!**

If you have fundraising ideas and are interested in teaming up with us, let us know by emailing us at [info@forgottencats.org](mailto:info@forgottencats.org)

We want to Thank ALL  
of the Volunteers  
who helped Forgotten Cats  
this past year.

We couldn't have  
done it without you!



**Clifton is Looking for His Forever Home!**



"My name is **Clifton (FCID# 05/12/2017-401)**. I was found at an apartment complex in Bensalem, PA. I am very friendly and love to be around people. My upper lip looks a little funny because I had an ulcer on my lip but it is better now. I have a skin sensitivity. It really is not a big deal but sometimes I have to be careful about what I eat.

**Although I am happy almost anywhere,  
I really want a family and home of my own.**

*A nice foster family took me out of the clinic and brought me into their home to give me a break. I LOVE to sit on laps and to be petted and scratched on my head. I would probably stay there all day if I could."*



Clifton's foster says, "He would do well as an only cat, or if he is properly introduced he might do well with a younger more submissive (female?) cat. He has come such a long way since he has been with his foster family and would be an excellent companion for someone willing to give this handsome guy a forever home."

Would you like to meet Clifton and offer him your lap? Please submit an online no-obligation adoption application here to arrange for a meet and greet! <http://www.forgottencats.org/application.php...>

**We want to Hear from you!**

If you have an idea for an article or have a story to share, about a rescue, special volunteer or adoption from Forgotten Cats, please share and send photos and or a story to:

***calleycat1@comcast.net***

**Lets Keep in Touch!**

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Visit our website at  
[www.forgottencats.org](http://www.forgottencats.org)

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