

FELINE RESCUE: WINTER COOLER SHELTER RETROFIT FOR CATS



STEP 1: Procure a plastic, hard-sided cooler, 40 quarts and larger (52 quarts is ideal for 1 large cat or up to 2 small cats; extra large size is needed for multiple bonded cats or mothers with kittens.) Purchase a 6" hole saw drill bit, Gorilla glue and heavy-duty, 2" Gorilla tape. Straw is available in farm/tractor/garden/pet/hardware stores.



STEP 2: With the top opening for the cooler facing you, drill a hole into the left side of the external cooler wall, 4" from the bottom and 3" from the left edge. Two holes should be drilled (on opposite ends of the same side) on extra-large coolers.



STEP 3: Wipe the drilled hole and surface area with a towel to remove residue. Clean out any debris from the hole drilling.



STEP 4: Using a carpet cutter, slice 4-5" pieces of Gorilla tape and place them in a parallel, star formation around the inside circumference of the drilled hole, tightly securing the loose ends on both the inside and outside of the hole. Tape over the outside edges to keep them in place.



STEP 5: Open the cooler top and place dry **straw** into it, filling the cooler to 1/3 of the volume. Do not use hay or cloth because it can get wet, moldy and retain moisture; cats lack a waterproof undercoat and wet cold can be deadly.



STEP 6: (Optional) Apply waterproof rescue stickers on front and back, using Gorilla glue for extra adherence, with contact information for identification and/or return for another cat in future need.



STEP 7: Place a piece of scrap paper into the shelter entrance area for transport, to be removed once the shelter has reached its destination. This will hold the straw into place and avoid excessive mess within a transport vehicle. Close the cooler lid and tape around the edges of the lid when complete (not shown.)



STEP 8: Place the completed shelter into a familiar location to the cat. Ideally, it can be placed under a roof or cover and set on top of wood slats or pallet, with straw underneath for added insulation from the frozen ground. A path should be kept clear to the shelter during winter months and snow kept clear from the shelter hole entrance.

Please offer daily dry food and fresh warm water inside an adjacent retrofitted cooler or nearby structure, without straw in it, and an untaped lid for easy access. Strap multiple coolers together for extra stability.