

FEEDING OUTDOOR CATS

Use a feeding station to prevent the cat food from getting wet and freezing. It's important to keep the kibble dry because cats can't eat frozen food. Late comers to the food bowl may go without food if it is frozen or drowned in rain water.

Refer to the GNHCP.org web site library for simple feeding station building instructions.

WINTER:

- Place food and water bowls in a sunny location.
- Feed during the daylight hours to discourage nighttime predators.
- Avoid dehydration by keeping your water drinkable:
 - Use bowls that are deep rather than wide, and place them in a sunny spot.
 - Use the bottom of a plastic gallon milk jug. When the water freezes, the ice can be popped right out and the plastic doesn't crack.
 - Refill the bowls with warm water.
 - Add a pinch of sugar to the water; this keeps it from freezing as quickly and provides an energy boost for the cats.
 - Purchase heated electric bowls found in many pet food stores.
- During the coldest months, consider cutting back, or completely cutting out, the amount of wet food that you feed because it can freeze within 10 minutes. Be sure to add more dry food to compensate.
- Keep the cats on a regular feeding schedule. The cats will come at the same time every day and the food and water will be consumed before it gets too cold or freezes.

SUMMER:

- Place food & water bowls in a shady location.
- Raise the food bowls off the ground with several bricks and surround with a ring of baking soda to discourage ants and other bugs.
- Remove wet food if not eaten in 60 minutes
- In the hottest months, consider cutting back, or completely cutting out, the amount of wet food that you feed because the wet food attracts bees and other bugs. Be sure to add more dry food to compensate.
- Wet food can dry out fast in the heat. To counteract this, add water. It has the added benefit of providing extra hydration for the cats.