



Stevens County Cat Care

October 2011 Kit-E-News

Our next clinic:

November 20th - Kettle Falls

Our volunteers and veterinarians hold mobile clinics in a different town's community center one Sunday each month. Our low cost mobile clinics are made possible thanks to the generosity of local veterinarians, grants, and local donations. Low income Stevens County residents may call

(509) 935-MEOW (6369)

to make reservations for their cat(s) at an upcoming clinic.

Check out our website in progress at www.stevenscountycatcare.org

TOP 10 REASONS TO ADOPT A BLACK CAT



Did you know that black cats have the lowest adoption rate and the highest euthanasia rate? Why?

We're not quite sure. Maybe it's the superstition factor. For whatever reason, black cats are statistically less likely to be adopted than more brightly colored felines. Therefore, if you are thinking of adding a kitty to the family, here are the top 10 reasons to pick a black cat!

1. You can always find your black cat in the snow.
2. Black goes with everything.
3. Black cats look like little panthers. Their regal breeding is very apparent.
4. A black cat will match any decor. You won't have to redecorate your house to coordinate with your cat.
5. Black is beautiful.
6. Bad Luck? When you love a black cat, luck is on his side!
7. Black cats have more fun. (You only thought blondes had more fun.)
8. Black cats are loving. Look, they know their reputation--scary. They've seen the illustrations--skinny cats with nasty long teeth, so they go overboard to be as affectionate and loving as any fluffy white, pink-nosed bunny kitty could be.
9. Love knows no color! Your cat doesn't care what color YOUR hair is!
10. And the #1 reason to adopt a black cat is that Black Cats are the least likely to get adopted!



Do it yourself Feral Cat Shelter

<http://www.pacthumanesociety.org/core/WinterShelter.htm>

Being a cat lover, as well as a softie, I'm sure I probably fed feral cats over the years that I didn't know about. However, I do know that I started feeding them on purpose, and on a regular basis, about seven years ago.

I started out feeding a litter of young adults that another rescuer had already trapped and spay/neutered. Soon, however, I found myself feeding visitors. I set out live traps and caught them and got them fixed. After they recovered their dignity and forgave me, they came back. They apparently liked my cooking, because they stayed.

Some cats came and went. I supposed that someone else was feeding ferals, too. Some never returned, and others returned and stayed.

I discovered that during each winter, starting in October, their appetites doubled. Between needing the fuel for body heat and there being less birds and rodents to catch, they watch intently each morning as I carry out their breakfast. At night I am careful to bring in any uneaten food because the skunks are all too happy to come enjoy the leftovers.

Three years ago I decided they needed more than food and water. They needed shelter too. I searched the internet for 'cat houses for dummies'- something that required no skills and a minimal amount of money. The website whose idea I used is credited above their photos. The pictures are reasonably self-explanatory and I added key points I either read or figured out the hard way.

There is not a winter night goes by when my little blue Rubbermaid kitty motels are not in use. I also have straw in dog houses. Not all the cats that come like each other, and this arrangement at least offers shelter to newcomers when the old timers won't share their bunk space.

These feral cat houses are easy to make, reasonably waterproof, and require low or no maintenance. This is an easy opportunity for you to make a real difference in the lives of feral cats in your community.

-Linda



A few key points to remember:

- Make the opening up high enough that as the snow gets deeper, snow, or water resulting from it melting, will not seep inside.
- Camouflage, or hide, your shelters well enough so as not to be real visible to curious neighbor kids or to those who are opposed to people feeding stray cats.
- Use straw, or even wood shavings, for bedding. Straw doesn't soak up and hold water the way blankets do. Towels and blankets get wet quickly and then stay wet...and cold. A cold wet bed is just as bad, if not worse, than no bed at all.
- Keep it small enough so that the cat has a hope of retaining body heat inside it. Although cats do appreciate the dry shelter of a large dog house, they cannot generate enough heat to be warm in it.
- If you put feral shelters against a building, don't put them on the side where the snow will slide off and bury them...and the cats.
- A purrfect round hole for the opening is easier than you'd think. Just cut the end out of an old coffee can and set the can, open end down, directly on your cook stove burner. Set the Rubbermaid tub on end, squished solidly between you and the stove or kitchen counter. When the coffee can gets *really* hot, grab it (with your oven mitts on) and quickly push it against the Rubbermaid tub. It will melt a purrfect hole right through!

A classic case of 'I did it and so can you'!

