FEEDING COMMUNITY CATS THROUGH WINTER

KEEPING OUTDOOR CATS NOURISHED AND HYDRATED
CAC COMMUNITY EDUCATION • PET PARENT SERIES

WINTER FEEDING ESSENTIALS

- Extra Calories: Cats may need larger portions to maintain body heat.
- Balanced Nutrition: Provide complete, balanced cat food appropriate for their life stage.
- Feeding Schedule: Feed consistently so cats know when food is available.
- Protect Food: Use covered feeding stations to keep food dry.

PREVENT FROZEN WATER

- Provide fresh water daily and check frequently during freezing temperatures.
- Use an outdoor-rated heated bowl when safe electricity is available.
- Place water bowls in sheltered areas to slow freezing.
- Never add salt, antifreeze, or other substances to drinking water.

WET FOOD VS. DRY FOOD

DRY FOOD

- Freezes less quickly than wet food.
- Convenient for outdoor feeding stations.
- Must be protected from moisture.

WET FOOD

- Provides additional moisture.
- Freezes quickly in cold temperatures.
- Offer small portions and remove leftovers.



KEEP FEEDING AREAS SAFE & CLEAN

- Remove leftovers to discourage wildlife and pests.
- Wash bowls regularly and replace damaged containers.
- Keep feeding stations away from roads and hazards.
- Watch for weight loss, appetite changes, or illness.

REMEMBER: Food alone isn't enough! Community cats also need unfrozen water, dry insulated shelters, and veterinary care when necessary.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

- Alley Cat Allies. Winter Weather Tips for Community Cats. alleycat.org
- Neighborhood Cats. Colony Care. neighborhoodcats.org
- ASPCA. General Cat Care. aspca.org

Educational disclaimer: General educational information only. This handout does not diagnose, treat, or prescribe for any animal and does not replace examination or individualized advice from a licensed veterinarian. Identification, licensing, collar, and travel requirements may vary by location and circumstance. CAC Community Education: General pet-parent education only. Not a substitute for individualized advice from a licensed veterinarian.