

Full proof, safe and inexpensive dog shelters.

By Wally "LCK" Hendricks

Here is a simple, safe, inexpensive option for dog shelters. When building a place to keep our hounds and other dogs secure, several very important things should be taken into consideration. Is it secure? Does it provide adequate shelter from extreme heat, cold, wind and other severe weather conditions? Is it stable and long lasting? Is it well ventilated? Is it cost effective? I have used this system for many years with just about every kind of sporting dog you can think of and have found it fits the bill in every way.

Items needed:

- Plastic 55 gallon drum.
- 2-3" bolts we/nuts.
- 10 self tapping lag screws
- A couple of 2x4's
- 1/2 sheet plywood
- One 3' piece of heavy sucker rod or something to use as a steak.
- One length of good quality chain no shorter than 8'.
- One high quality swivel snap.

Cut two 4' lengths of 2x4
Cut one 36 and 3/4 inch length
Cut your plywood in half so you have a 4' piece

Bolt the 2x4x4's to each end of the barrel so the plywood will lay pretty much flush with the top making a lean too.
Screw the plywood to each corner of the plywood top and bottom.
Place the 36 and 3/4" board across the middle for added support using two screws to anchor the ends and two across the top in the middle for added strength. It should look something like this.



Place the barrel so the ends point North/South. This will provide for constant shade regardless of time of day. Drill a hole near the end of the lean where it meets the ground.



Place the stake through the hole and through the chain loop and drive it into the ground so only about an inch or two is protruding above the plywood.



Make sure that the chain is long enough for the dog to safely stand on the ground regardless of where it is in relationship to the house.



Treat the plywood surface with diesel fuel.

This system provides well ventilated protection from the direct sun as well as the cold, rain and wind. It is safe in that the dog cannot get hung up on the chain if it likes jumping from the top of the box. It can use the lean too or barrell depending on the weather. It has enough strength to support it's weight and is weather, bug and chew proof due to the diesel treatment and is stable due to the stake being driven through the lean too. It provides all day shade which in my experience is the most critical of all concerns.

Total cost in supply's.

\$32.31 including chain and hardware.

Time from start to finish including hauling to kennels and staking down, 54 minutes from start to finish and I am not much of a handy man. These shelters will last several years with very little if any maintenance. I usually add a little diesel about twice a year to keep the bugs away and to keep it from weathering.