I built this shelter to look like a hedge but you could make it smaller, like a bush, and place it in your backyard. Make sure that whatever you design you can look into the top for critters you may not want in there! You can hinge the top if the box is smaller. On the hedge, I made a top that lifts off the edges you see here, partially, which you’ll see in some of the photos. The fake hedge/ivy can be purchased at improvementscatalog.com. The lumber is purchased at home depot or a similar store--just make sure to use outdoor, treated wood.

This is the basic shape of my hedge. It is a rectangle of 2 x 4s with plastic white trellis nailed to the edge. The shelves were some leftover plywood and so was the top. Everything was painted brown with outdoor paint even though it’s outdoor wood.

This shows the inside of the hedge and the shelves for the kitties.

The fake ivy made for outdoors is from improvementscatalog.com. It comes on a roll and is attached to squares of plastic.
I used white wire ties to attach the ivy to the lattice. Just pull them to the inside of the fake hedge and then cut them so the kitties won't poke their eyes. Use a lot--they are inexpensive--because you don't want the wind to blow off the fake ivy.

Finished!

Placed in front of the house. I also plant some flowers in front to cover the space at the bottom where the cats go in and out. From this point of view you can't even see the hole unless you come right up to the hedge.
For summer I place kitty cubes and snuggle boxes inside. obviously, this hedge is kitty-tested and approved. Make sure the top doesn't leak in the rain! The cover (to cover the hole you're viewing into right now) has to overlap the top quite a bit so rain can't sneak in. Use a solid piece of plywood for the top hole cover.

For winter, I place 2” house styrofoam cat houses in the hedge and cover the entire hedge with a brown tarp. Not the greatest looking but it's winter. People cover all sorts of things with tarps in the winter. You can also use camouflage or green tarps.

If you have questions email me at: elnhart@comcast.net Use cat shelter hedge in your subject line and I’ll be happy to help you.