



no sew dog toys



Facts about homeless pets

There are many reasons an animal may end up at a shelter or with a rescue group. Sometimes the owner is no longer able to care for their pet and must surrender them. But other times an animal ends up on the street resulting from a situation of neglect or cruelty. These dogs or cats may be skittish or timid at first, but trained handlers know how best to bring an animal off the street and into a safe environment.

According to the ASPCA, approximately 7.6 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year. Of those, approximately 3.9 million are dogs and 3.4 million are cats. Only 10% of the animals received by shelters have been spayed or neutered. Many of these strays are lost pets that were not kept properly indoors or provided with identification. It is important to take good care of our pets by providing them with a safe environment, proper care, and love.

MATERIALS

- Scissors or rotary cutter
- Cutting mat (optional)
- Fleece - durable fabric that will not fray
- Large binder clip - to hold the braid in place as you work

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Do you get bored sometimes? Dogs and cats living in a shelter do too! What are some things dogs or cats would do if they weren't living in a shelter?
- Why do dogs and cats end up in a shelter?
- What is the difference between a shelter/rescue and a pet store?

START A RIPPLE OF GIVING

- If you are considering getting a pet, try fostering a shelter animal for a few weeks. This helps you understand the care that is needed and helps to socialize the animal too.



DIRECTIONS

For each toy, you will need to cut three strips of fabric from selvage-to-selvage (cross grain) at 3.5" wide each.

1. First fold the fabric in half so the selvages are together, then trim away the selvage edge (the fabric that was attached to the loom).
 - a. Use your ruler and rotary cutter (or scissors) to measure and cut a 3.5" strip.
 - b. Repeat two more times.
2. Find the center of each fabric strip and stack the strips together. Use a binder clip (or a partner!) to hold them.
3. Braid the center loop handle.
 - a. Braid about 6" from the center.
 - b. Move the binder clip to the bottom of the braid to hold it.
 - c. Turn the project over and braid the other 6" or so from the center start point.
 - d. When done, fold the braid in the center. The tail ends should be about the same length on both sides.
4. Braid the rope
 - a. Match a fabric from the left side with a fabric on the right. Match colors if the fabrics are different. If the fabrics are all the same color, it does not matter which piece you match on either side.
 - b. Lay the two matched pieces together to form one. Curl them so the edges are not showing.
 - c. Braid the now-thick three strips together. Try to braid the fabrics tightly. Stop when you near the end.
5. Knot the end.
 - a. Take the whole top and loop to make a knot.
 - b. Slide and pull the knot tight to the end. Trim the ends to the same length.

NEXT STEPS

Donate dog toys to your local animals shelter or rescue organization. Some ideas in the greater Atlanta area:

- Atlanta Humane Society
- LifeLine Animal Project
- PAWS Atlanta
- Angels Among Us Pet Rescue
- FurKids
- Humane Society of NE Georgia
- Bosley's Place

REFLECTION

Have your family come together after you have made the dog toys. Come up with 5 words that describe the day's experience and talk about these questions.

- Why was it important to do this project?
- How did you help?
- What was it like to work together as a family for this project?
- What was the most fun part of the experience?
- What else can you do to help animals?



start your ripple of giving

