



Group and Individual Projects to Help CAP

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Citizens for Animal Protection! These are fun and easy projects you can complete at home or with a group to benefit the animals of CAP and earn volunteer service hours.

Students who are completing projects to earn volunteer service hours for school are asked to follow these guidelines to ensure that their hours can be verified by CAP:

- ✿ Keep a record of your time on the Project Tracking Sheet.
- ✿ The Volunteer Coordinator can issue credit for service/volunteer hours by signing school-issued paperwork, issuing a letter of verification on CAP letterhead, or verifying hours via the x2vol system. The Volunteer Coordinator is available Tuesdays-Fridays.
- ✿ If you need to turn in completed projects Saturday-Monday, you will be asked to turn in your Project Tracking Sheet to the reception desk. The Volunteer Coordinator will email a letter of certification within 72 hours after receiving the sheet.
- ✿ If you need to receive a letter or have paperwork signed off on immediately on a Tuesday-Friday, please call and check with reception or email to verify that the Volunteer Coordinator will be at the shelter when you come in.

Questions about projects and credit for volunteer service hours can be directed to the Volunteer Coordinator at:

Elana Gilbert
Volunteer Coordinator
1755 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77094
281-497-0591
egilbert@cap4pets.org

Collect newspapers

These are put in the CAP kennels after staff cleans them. Here's how to complete the CAP newspaper collection project:

- ✿ Collect newspapers (in good condition, not crumpled up or dirty) from friends, neighbors, or other sources.
- ✿ Remove plastic bags or twine and stack newspapers together.
- ✿ Twenty-four inches of newspaper will equal one hour of service.

Make no-sew fleece pet beds

We use these for our cats and small dogs:

Materials:

- ✿ Fleece fabric
- ✿ Ruler or measuring tape
- ✿ Scissors

Instructions:

- ✿ Use two pieces of fleece cotton, cut 27" by 30"
- ✿ Cut out 3" by 3" squares off of each corner.
- ✿ Cut slits 1" apart and 3" deep into each side.
- ✿ Tie the matching slits together. This makes a nice flat bed.
- ✿ To make a bed with raised sides, tie some of the ones next to each other together. Begin with the corners and then do some in between from the center.
- ✿ See page 6 if you have any questions about how to do this project.

Make and donate catnip toys

(Version 1) Cat Nip Ball

Each toy is a 4 inch circle of material with a tablespoon of catnip in the middle and tied up into a bundle with a piece of satin ribbon. We can't use gift wrapping curling ribbon or thin strings, because it can cause choking or intestinal blockage if cats try to eat the string.

(Version 2) Sock Toy

Materials:

- ✿ Colorful infant or child cotton sock
- ✿ Cotton balls
- ✿ Dried catnip
- ✿ Construction paper
- ✿ Satin ribbon (optional)

Instructions:

- ✿ Make a funnel out of the paper and insert it into the sock
- ✿ Pour in enough catnip to fill it halfway (you can use cotton balls as stuffing here)- pack lightly
- ✿ If the sock is long enough you may want to tie it as the base of the stuffing and then turn it inside out and tie a knot at the other end- this reinforces the toy by doubling the fabric around the catnip.
- ✿ You can tie a piece of satin ribbon around the tail or just tie the sock in a knot.

(Version 3) Twirler Cat Toy

The twirler toss cat toy is a light weight and easy for a cat to toss, hunt and even fetch!

Materials:

- ✿ An old T-shirt or fleece material
- ✿ Scissors

Instructions:

- ✿ Cut your material into rectangular strips (approximately 5 inches long)
- ✿ Take two strips and lay them across each other in a cross pattern.
- ✿ Take the bottom strip of material and tie the ends in a knot in the middle (over the other piece)
- ✿ Take the top strip and knot it.

Once you are finished, you should have a toy with a knot in the middle and four ends of fabric sticking out!

Make Kitty Forts

Kitty Forts provide a safe, secure perching spot or retreat for kitties. They are used for rubbing and scratching, two things kitties love to do. Embellish with dangling toys and decorations – be creative!

Instructions:

- ✿ Select a cardboard box with approximate dimensions 12" x 12" x 12"
- ✿ Cut out a large opening for the front side
- ✿ Cover the box with clothe or construction paper
- ✿ Remember use only NON-TOXIC school glue
- ✿ Decorate your fort (stamps, stickers, pictures, etc.)
- ✿ Please do not use any yarn, string, or pipe cleaners.

Make Homemade Dog Toys for the Shelter Dogs: **Fleece Rope**

Materials:

- ✿ Fleece fabric---18" x 24"
- ✿ Scissors

Instructions:

- ✿ Cut the fleece fabric into six strips measuring approximately 3" x 24".
- ✿ Knot all six strips together at one end and braid them together, using two strips per section. Once the braid has almost reached the ends of the fabric, knot the strips together again.

Variation: Add a Tennis ball

- ✿ Cut holes in opposite ends of the tennis ball
- ✿ Thread three strips of fleece through the tennis ball and knot each set of tails right up next to the tennis ball to prevent it from slipping along your braid
- ✿ Braid each tail out 6-12 inches
- ✿ Knot the braid to finish it.

Make Bandanas for Shelter Dogs and Cats

Wearing colorful bandanas is a great way for shelter pets to get noticed by potential adopter's, so you will really be helping if you decide to make these for our animals.

Materials:

- ✿ Brightly colored material, may either be a solid color or have fun designs
- ✿ Pinking shears (these create a design along the edge of the fabric and helps keep the material from fraying)

Instructions:

- ✿ Cut pieces of fabric into 14" x 14", or 22" x 22" squares
- ✿ Fold in half diagonally and cut along the fold

Variations:

Squares can range in size up to 28" by 28". We have lots of dogs of different sizes, and large dogs need bandannas too!!!

New Adoption Congratulation Letters

Make homemade cards to share with new pet adopters how happy you are they chose a shelter pet from CAP! Decorate the front with fun paw prints, can and dog, stickers, etc. and offer a heartfelt message inside. This is an inspiring way to promote the adoption of shelter animals.

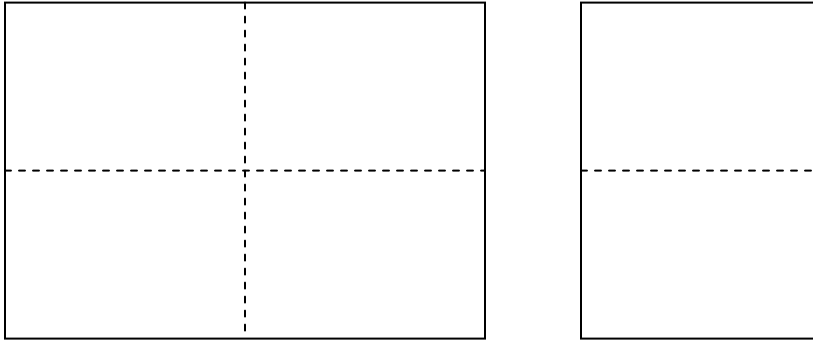
Shelter supply drive

The more items donated the more money we have to spend on the animals, like a dog needing surgery for a hernia or a cat with a cold. Host a CAP Pet Wish List Food drive for items like clay cat litter, puppy dry and canned foods, kitten dry and canned foods, and white paper towels. To see our current wish list, please visit: <http://www.cap4pets.org/support-us/donation-programs/wish-list>.

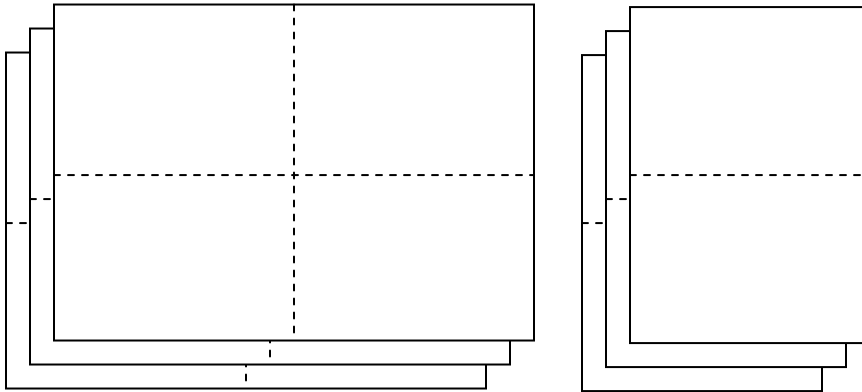
CAP appreciates your donated newspapers!

It is especially helpful to our staff if you unfold the newspapers before you bring them to the shelter.

1. Remove all glossy and small size ads and discard.
2. Open the newspaper and separate the full sheets from the half sheets.



3. Stack the newspapers into two piles.



4. You can fold the piles in half to make them easier to carry!

No-Sew Fleece Pet Beds

Materials:

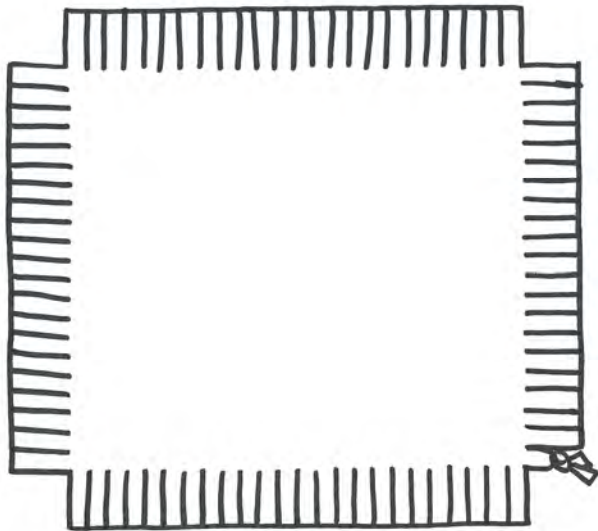
- ✿ Fleece fabric of your choice
- ✿ Scissors

Instructions:

- ✿ Cut two pieces of fleece into 27" x 30" rectangles
- ✿ Lay the two pieces of fleeces back to back, with the "good" sides facing out
- ✿ Cut out 3" x 3" squares from each corner
- ✿ Cut slits 1" apart and 3" deep into each side
- ✿ Tie the matching slits together- begin with a few of the slits by the corners, then work from the center of each side back out to the corners

This will make a nice flat bed. To make a bed with raised sides, tie alternating slits together.

This is what your fleece will look like when you have your corners cut out, slits cut, and have tied your first pair of slits:



Tips and tricks:

- ✿ Use good scissors to make cutting easier
- ✿ Use masking tape to give yourself a "cut to" line so you cut all your slits an even length, or mark your cutting lines with a water-soluble fabric pen
- ✿ Don't just tie each slit once; make them into a knot so the sides of the blanket don't come apart when washed.

