

**humane  
society**  
of charlotte



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**STUDENT ACTIVITY  
BOOKLET**

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# NO-SEW PET BLANKET

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*Pet blankets provide a comfort to our animals while they await their furever home. Help them have a cozy and comfortable stay by making blankets for them!*

## WHAT YOU'LL MAKE:

3 blankets in 1 hour

## SUPPLIES:

- Fleece fabric
- Scissors

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Determine the size of bed you wish to make. (3'x2' is a good size for a kitten, but larger would be better for a cat, or small or large dog). Cut two pieces of fabric the same size, making sure to cut them about five inches bigger than you want the bed to turn out.
2. Place the two pieces of fabric together. Going around the edges, cut strips about 5" long and 1" apart.
3. Once both pieces of fabric have strips on all sides, tie pieces together by knotting a strip on the top piece to a strip on the bottom piece. Tie the pieces together on all sides, making sure they are tied tightly.

# FABRIC BRAID DOG TOY

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*Chewing is an important part of canine development and chew toys can help anxious, bored, or stressed dogs feel soothed and stimulated. Help our dogs stay healthy and happy by creating fabric braids for them to play with and chew on!*

## WHAT YOU'LL MAKE:

8 toys in 1 hour

## SUPPLIES:

- Fleece, cotton fabric, or old t-shirts
- Scissors
- Tennis ball or dog toy (optional)

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut fabric into approximately 4" wide and 20" long strips (can make longer if desired).
2. Knot one end and braid at least three strips together (thicker strips & braids are better for bigger dogs).
3. Use a dog toy or remove the center of a tennis ball and string it through (optional – please wash toys/balls before use).
4. Tie off the end in a knot.

***Want some variety?*** Cut 2" wide strips and braid nine strips together for another option OR cut strips 3" wide and 30" long and braid four strips using a square knot technique.

# FISH TOY

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*Play is an important part of keeping kittens and cats healthy and happy. The dried herbs also provide a different smell cats enjoy! Provide some enrichment with these fish toys.*

## WHAT YOU'LL MAKE:

5 toys in 1 hour

## SUPPLIES:

- Fish template
- Fabric
- Pins
- Pinking shears
- Cotton batting or wool scraps
- Dried rosemary, thyme, lavender, or basil
- Needle and thread

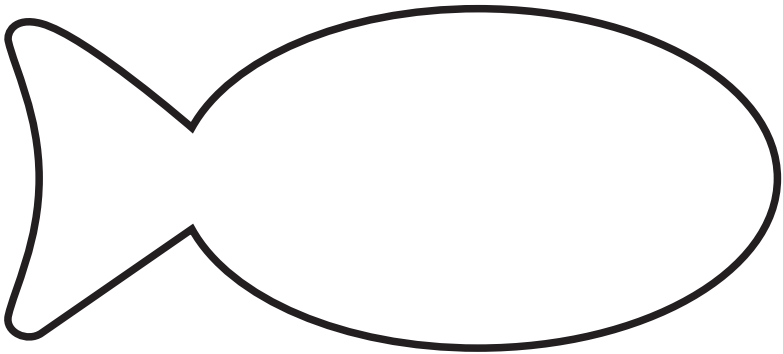
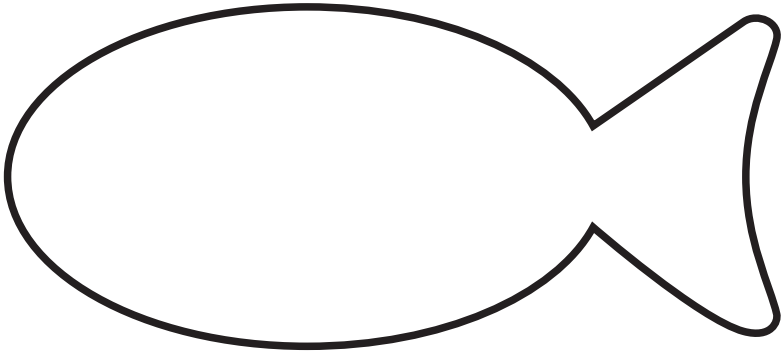
## DIRECTIONS:

1. Trace and cut out the fish template (you may use ours below or create your own in a similar size) onto two pieces of fabric.
2. Pin sides together, leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ th seam allowance. Sew seam and leave 1" opening for filling.
3. Trim seams with pinking shears.
4. Stuff with cotton batting or wool scraps until firm.
5. Add 1-2 tablespoons of dried rosemary, thyme, or basil.
6. Stitch to close.

***Want a nicer-looking fish with hidden seams?*** Pin right sides facing each other, leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ th seam allowance. Sew seam and leave 1.5" opening for filling. Turn right side out and press seams flat. Stuff and stitch to close.

# FISH TEMPLATE

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# SOCK CAT TOY

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*New toys offer variety for our cats and kittens. They encourage play, decrease boredom, and introduce new stimulating smells into their day! Help our cats and kittens stay healthy and happy by using something we all have laying around: too-small or lonely socks!*

## WHAT YOU'LL MAKE:

15 toys in 1 hour

## SUPPLIES:

- Small sock
- Cotton batting or fabric scraps
- Dried rosemary, thyme, basil, lavender (optional)
- Fabric markers (optional)
- Needle and thread (optional)

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Put 1-2 tablespoons dried herbs in a baby or child's sock (optional).  
Fill the rest with cotton batting or fabric scraps.
2. Tie off the sock at the end.
3. Draw a face or decorate if desired!

***Like to sew?*** Use a needle and thread to stitch the end of the sock instead of tying it off.

# KNOTTED BALL CAT TOY

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*Balls encourage our cats to pounce, swat, and chase as they are naturally inclined to do. Upcycle an old shirt into a knotted ball cat toy to give our cats some playful enrichment. A knit shirt or shirt with some stretch is the best option for this toy.*

## WHAT YOU'LL MAKE:

8 toys in 1 hour

## SUPPLIES:

- Shirt
- Fabric scissors

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut the shirt along the side seams and around the sleeves to create two flat pieces.
2. Open up the shirt and cut one of the flat panels of fabric into strips by cutting in a curved snake-like pattern, back and forth, along the short side of the fabric, leaving 1" from the uncut edge as you cut.
3. Gently pull the strips, allowing the shirt material to curl inwards into tubular strands.
4. Tie one end of the strands into a knot.
5. Continue to wrap the strand around the knot to create a ball about 2" in diameter.
6. To end, knot the strand to the ball. Cut off excess strand but leave a tail of desired length so the ball may be tied to a catio or used for play.



# CAT CONDO

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*Cat condos help provide our cats with a safe space to hide or have some privacy for sleep. It helps ease their anxiety and fear in a stressful environment with other cats and people. Make our cats a little safe space with a cat condo! Feel free to add some fun aspects so they can scratch and play as well, but, please, no string and limit tape use as those are a safety hazard!*

## WHAT YOU'LL MAKE:

2 condos in 1 hour

## SUPPLIES:

- Cardboard box (sturdy and clean)
- Box cutter/utility knife
- Hot glue gun/gummed paper tape
- Decorating items (pipe cleaners, feathers, markers, etc.)

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Seal cardboard box on all sides.
2. With adult help and supervision, cut out a door large enough for a cat and windows as desired.
3. Decorate the box as desired, adding in fun elements for cats. Don't be afraid to get creative!

***Want to level up your cat condo for double hours?*** Look up Martha Stewart “How to Make a Cardboard Cat Playhouse” and follow those directions!

# SHOEBOX CAT SCRATCHER

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*Cats love to scratch and often don't have access to scratching options while awaiting their furever homes. Help give them enrichment and the ability to do what is natural to them by creating shoebox cat scratchers with cardboard that would otherwise be thrown out!*

## WHAT YOU'LL MAKE:

1 scratcher in 1 hour

## SUPPLIES:

- Small cardboard box or shoebox
- Cardboard pieces
- Scissors or box cutter/utility knife
- Hot glue gun

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut cardboard into pieces that are the same length and height as your box.
2. Place the pieces side by side into the box with corrugated edge up, hot gluing them together as you go.
3. Continue until the box is full and tightly packed.

***Want to decorate?*** Decorate the outside of the box to add to a cheerful environment that encourages adoptions.

# DONATION DRIVE

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*We are always in need of donations to take care of our animals and serve our community. Create flyers, schedule drop-off or pick-up times and locations and hold a donation drive in your community.*

## **WHAT YOU'LL COLLECT:**

10 bags/items in 1 hour\*

*\*This is an estimate. Final hours are determined at drop-off, based on amount and time spent collecting.*

## **ITEMS OFTEN NEEDED:**

- Dry dog food
- Wet and dry cat food
- Dog and cat treats
- Fleece pet blankets
- Rescue cleaner
- Disposable latex-free gloves
- Recycled paper cat litter pellets
- Cat toys
- Sturdy dog toys

## **AMAZON WISHLIST:**

Please see our Wishlist on Amazon for the most updated list of needs!



## GOT AN IDEA?

Email [tlunford@humanecharlotte.org](mailto:tlunford@humanecharlotte.org) with your service activity proposal including the details of what you want to do, website or picture example, and the approximate date it will be completed by.

Please do not do any activity outside of what is listed without approval by the Humane Society of Charlotte. We want your efforts to be worthwhile!

Thank you for your dedication to the animals!

