



# DIY ENRICHMENT TOYS FOR SHELTER ANIMALS



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*Help the shelter by crafting these fun enrichment toys for our animals! Many of these projects do not require much material and can be completed in the comfort of your home!*



**Thank you!!**



**-Dana Wenger**

**Community Outreach & Volunteer Manager for the Humane Society of Harford County**

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# DONUT DENIM DOG TOY

HAVE SOME OLD JEANS THAT DON'T FIT? CUT THEM UP AND CREATE SOME DOG TOYS! THIS IS GREAT FOR FETCH AND A DURABLE TOY FOR STRONG CHEWERS!

## MATERIALS

- 1 cut-off jeans leg (or sleeve)
- 1 denim strip

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Roll the jeans leg into a donut shape like you would for a sock bun donut.
2. Wrap a long denim strip around the donut to secure the donut shape and tie the ends together with an overhand knot (give yourself enough of the strip to tie the knot tight!).

**\*You can make a softer donut dog toy with a sock! Simply cut the end of the sock so that it is a tube, and roll!\***





# CROWN KNOT DENIM DOG TOY

THIS CRAFT IS A REALLY FUN ONE TO MAKE-ALMOST AS FUN AS THE DOGS WILL HAVE WHEN THEY PLAY WITH IT!

## MATERIALS

- 4 long denim straps
- Pair of needle nose pliers
- Rubber band or hair tie

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Secure the 4 straps of denim together with a rubber band or hair tie.
2. Tie a series of crown knots. You can use the round crown knot or the box knot: the spiral crown knot creates a round dog toy while the box knot creates a square dog toy.

**\*To hide the tails, push the needle-nose pliers through the knotted denim dog toy, grab the tail and pull it through the toy. Then trim the ends.\***





# BRAIDED T-SHIRT ROPE TOY

WHAT DOG DOESN'T LOVE A GAME OF TUG-OF-WAR? WITH ONLY 2 T-SHIRTS YOU CAN MAKE A FUN AND COLORFUL TOY THAT'S BOUND TO BE A DOG'S FAVORITE!

## MATERIALS

- Minimum of 2 T-shirts
- Pair of scissors

**\*If you have more than two tees handy, you can use more and make a super colorful version!\***

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by cutting little 2-3" wide slits at the base of your shirts. After you've cut your slits, just rip along the slit and your t-shirt will have the perfect strips of fabric for the next step.
2. Gather your t-shirt strips and tie off one end. Divide your strips into thirds and braid them together.
3. Once you've braided down to the other end, tie up the bottom and cut any straggling t-shirt strips.





# CRUNCHY WATER BOTTLE SOCK TOY

THIS TOY CAN BE MADE BY NEARLY ANYONE. THE CRUNCHY WATER BOTTLE MAKES THIS A DOG'S FAVORITE!

## MATERIALS

- 1 plastic water bottle(empty)
- 1 long sock

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the water bottle into the sock.
2. Tie the end of the sock off with a simple knot. Voila!

**\*For some extra pizzazz, you can fray the ends of the sock after the knot! The more colorful the sock, the better!\***







# TENNIS BALL SOCK TOY

THIS TOY MAKES FOR A GREAT GAME OF FETCH. BECAUSE YOU'RE USING SOCKS, YOU CAN BE AS COLORFUL AS YOU WANT!

## MATERIALS

- 1 long sock
- 1 tennis ball

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the ball into the sock and slide it all the way to the bottom of the sock.
2. Tie off the end of the sock with an overhand knot. It doesn't matter how high or low you tie the sock off, just make sure it's tight!

**\*For extra pizzazz, fray the ends of the sock!\***





# SNUFFLE MAT FOR DOGS

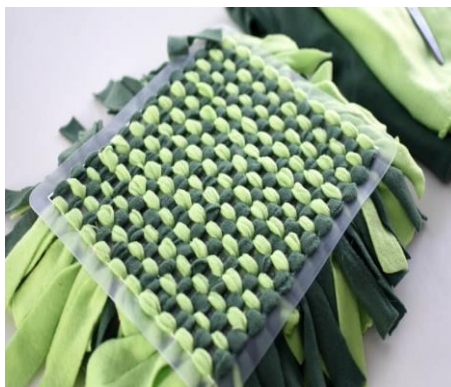
Snuffle mats can give dogs much-needed mental and physical stimulation. These entertaining puzzle feeder toys encourage your furry best friend to use their most natural training tool — their nose!

## MATERIALS

- A rubber anti-fatigue mat or sink mat with holes in it, cut to the size of your choice, preferably 12" x 12"
- Sharp fabric scissors
- One yard of fleece fabric (We recommend using at least two different colors.)

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the fleece into 10-inch strips. You'll need at least as many strips as there are holes in your mat.
2. Choose one color of fleece strips.
3. Double knot the strips along the entire edge of your mat. Loop the strips through each hole, filling in the inside of the mat.
4. Choose the second color of fleece strips and flip the mat over.
5. Double knot the strips in the opposite direction of your first color strips. We pushed all the fleece through the holes and then flipped the mat back over to double knot the loose ends. This saves time so that you're not flipping the mat constantly.
6. Hide your dog's food or favorite treats in the snuffle mat and let them forage!







# T-SHIRT CAT TENT

THIS IS A REALLY FUN AND EASY WAY TO MAKE A DOME BED FOR A CAT. WHAT'S EVEN BETTER? YOU CAN TAKE THE T-SHIRT OFF AND WASH IT AND ALSO YOU DON'T HAVE TO STICK WITH THE SAME T-SHIRT ALL THE TIME!

## MATERIALS

- 15" x 15" cardboard square
- 1 medium sized T-shirt
- 2 wire coat hangers
- Tape
- 4 safety pins right
- Pair of pliers

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the hooks off of the hangers
2. Using the end of the wire, poke a hole in the 4 corners of the cardboard. Leave about a half inch from the edges of the cardboard.
3. Push one end of the hanger through a hole of the cardboard so that about one inch of the wire is poking through the other side.
4. Use the needle nose pliers to bend the piece of wire that's poking through the other side so that it is flat against the cardboard (90 degrees) and secure it to the cardboard with a piece of tape.
5. Push the other end of the wire through the opposite side of the cardboard so that the wire forms an arc across the middle of the cardboard.
6. Repeat step 3.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 for the other 2 corners of the cardboard. It should now resemble a tent frame!
8. Secure the top of the frame where the 2 wires connect with a piece of tape.
9. Take your T-shirt and put the tent inside of the shirt, so that the neck hole resembles an opening and the shirt sleeves are towards the cardboard.
10. Fold the T-shirt and sleeves flat against the cardboard.
11. Secure to the cardboard using the safety pins.





# TOILET PAPER ROLL CAT TOY

WHAT ELSE WILL YOU DO WITH ALL OF YOUR TOILET PAPER ROLLS?! THIS IS A CRAFT THAT ANYONE CAN MAKE AND CATS WILL LOVE!

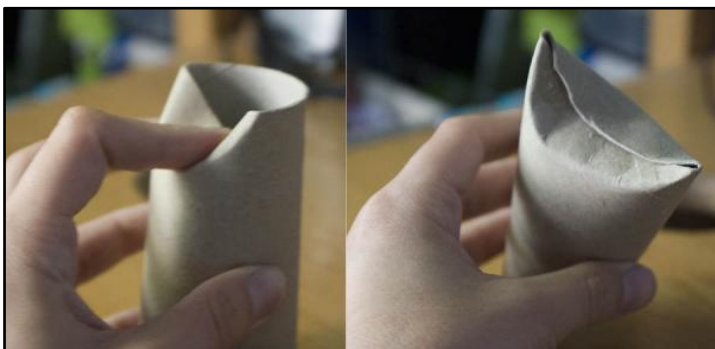
## MATERIALS

- Empty toilet paper roll
- Some pencils or markers to decorate!

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Decorate the outside of the toilet paper roll. Be as colorful as you like!
2. Fold the two ends of the toilet paper roll inwards, to close the roll.
3. You're done! No need to fill with food, we will do that part!

**\*Don't glue anything to the cardboard as a cat may ingest it\***





# CARDBOARD CAT SCRATCHER

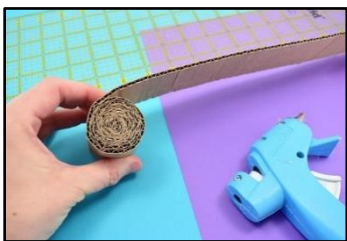
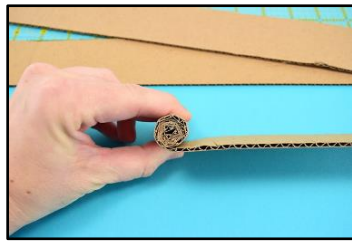
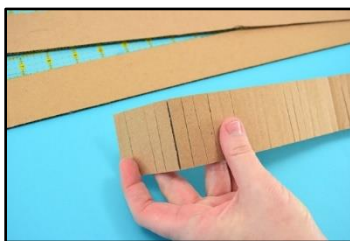
DO YOU RECYCLE YOUR CARDBOARD BOXES? TRY UPCYCLING THEM AND CREATING A CAT SCRATCHER! CATS HAVE A NATURAL URGE TO SCRATCH AND THEY SHOULD HAVE A PLACE TO SAFELY DO SO.

## MATERIALS

- Large pieces of cardboard (cardboard boxes work great!)
- Long ruler or other straight edge
- Craft knife
- Hot glue gun

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the cardboard into approximately 2" strips. When cutting the cardboard, make sure you can see the zig zag patter of the corrugation in the middle.
2. Score each strip approximately every ½".
3. Tightly role the cardboard into a spiral making sure the scored side is facing inward.
4. Un-role the spiral and re-role using the hot glue as you go along to secure it together. Make sure that you keep one end as flat as you can for easier scratch-ability.
5. Once the small spiral is complete, continue to add scored strips to the end wrapping in the direction of the spiral.
6. Repeat Step 5 until the scratcher is big enough for a cat to comfortably use. Make sure you secure the end of the spiral with extra glue to make sure it is secure!







# NO SEW SOCKTOPUS

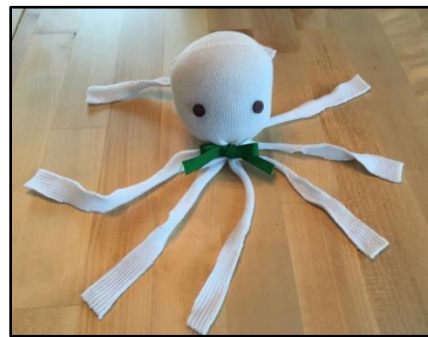
THIS EASY TOY WILL DRIVE A CAT NUTS! REALLY, THE SOCK IS JUST THE VEHICLE FOR THE CATNIP- IT PRESENTS THE CATNIP IN AN INTRIGUING AND ATTRACTIVE WAY THAT IS BOUND TO HAVE A CAT SAYING "DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING..."

## MATERIALS

- One long sock
- Dry catnip
- Polyfill or cotton balls(pull cotton balls apart some so that you can sprinkle catnip throughout)
- Pair of scissors

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Spread a chunk of polyfill (or cotton balls) into a bit of a rectangle.
2. Sprinkle some catnip onto the polyfill (or cotton balls).
3. Take sock and cut down center from top to ankle.
4. Stuff polyfill (or cotton balls) into the top of the sock.
5. Tie top off with small piece of string.
6. Cut rest of sock into strips(you can do 8 like an octopus, or more if desired)







# DIY CAT WAND TOY

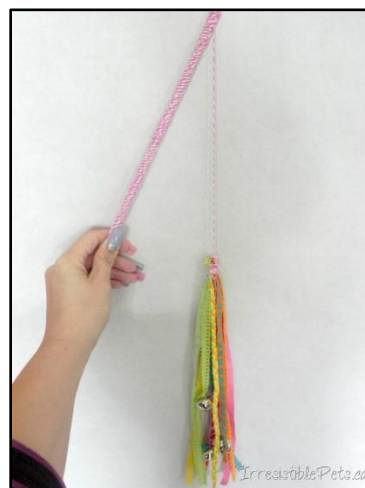
CATS GO WILD FOR WAND TOYS- WHY NOT CREATE A PERSONALIZED ONE? GET CREATIVE BY USING DIFFERENT MATERIALS, COLORS, AND PATTERNS!

## MATERIALS

- 1 Wooden Dowel
- 3 Jingle Bells(optional)
- Multiple Fabric Scraps (Ribbons, Shoe Laces, etc.)
- 1 Roll of Baker's Twine
- Scissors
- Fabric Glue

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. To make your wand look "irresistible", begin by wrapping the plain wooden dowel with Baker's Twine.
2. When you finish wrapping the dowel, leave an excess amount {10-12 inches} so that you can tie your fabric scraps to the end.
3. Use a small amount of fabric glue to secure the twine to the dowel, so that it doesn't unravel.
4. Select three different scraps of fabric and tie on the jingle bells (optional).
5. Take all of your fabric scraps and tie them to the end of the Baker's Twine.





# REACH FEEDER FOR CATS

Making mealtime fun, challenging and interactive for cats is a great way to satisfy their instincts and curiosities. With this feeder, every meal is an opportunity for enrichment and mental stimulation!

## MATERIALS

- Toilet paper rolls (3-4)
- Shoe box with lid or soda box
- Pencil or pen
- Knife
- Cat food or treats

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Using a pen or pencil, trace the end of the toilet paper rolls on top of the lid; repeat in different locations on the lid, one outline for each roll.
2. Using your knife, cut the holes out on the lid. Make sure to cut along the traced lines. If the hole is too big, the roll will not be sturdy.
3. Slide rolls into each of the holes, and place food or treats into each roll. Now let the cats enjoy!





# KITTY TOY POM POMS

These balls of excitement only take a few minutes and make for hours of fun cat play time!

Made with cotton or wool string, this homemade cat toy is safe and easy to make!

## MATERIALS

- Cotton or wool string
- Scissors

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select a string and hold it in the palm of your hand wrapping the string around your hand. Make sure to loop it at least 50 times.
2. Now slide the looped string off your hand and tie around the center with a length of string.
3. Work your scissors through the looped sides of the string and cut, creating the pom-pom kitty toy.
4. Cut the other half of the looped string and trim around the pom-pom as needed.





# SMALL ANIMAL CARDBOARD HIDEAWAY

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CARDBOARD BOX? TURN IT INTO A SMALL ANIMAL SHACK!  
THIS BOX CAN BE A FUN INTERACTIVE HIDEOUT FOR SMALL ANIMALS TO EXPLORE.

## MATERIALS

- 1 medium sized cardboard box
- Pair of scissors
- Colored pencils, pens, markers, or crayons

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut off top flaps.
2. Remove all potentially chewable materials (labels, packaging tape, stickers, etc.)
3. Cut doorways, windows, or even a skylight
4. Using your coloring materials, decorate the box!





# TOILET PAPER ROLL TREAT BALL

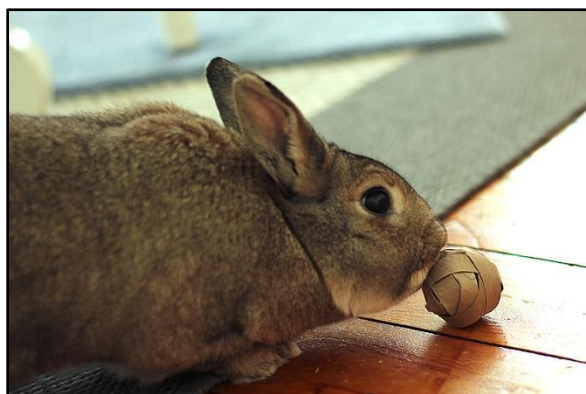
ANOTHER FUN AND EASY CRAFT FOR YOUR TOILET PAPER ROLLS! THIS FILLABLE TOY WILL KEEP A RABBIT'S MIND ACTIVE AS IT TRIES TO MAKE THE TREATS FALL OUT!

## MATERIALS

- Empty toilet paper roll
- Scissors

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut toilet paper roll into even rings, about 0.5" wide.
2. Place them inside of each other crisscross style to form a ball.
3. Voila! Don't worry about filling the ball with treats- leave that to us!







# HAMSTER CHEW STICKS

HELP A HAMSTER SATISFY THEIR URGE TO CHEW BY CRAFTING THESE SAFE CHEW STICKS!

## MATERIALS

- Wood Skewers
- White Flour
- Water
- Pair of scissors or knife
- Parchment paper or drying rack

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut wood skewers into 3" long pieces- cut off the pointy ends too!
2. Mix 1:1 ratio of water and flour- this makes the non-toxic glue!
3. Dip or brush the skewers with the glue mixture and stick 5 together in a bundle.
4. Set on piece of parchment paper or drying rack. Allow to dry overnight!

