

Bandannas for dogs in shelters & rescue

by Suezanne M. Law

There are many rescue and shelter organizations in the Kansas City area, and they help dogs find new homes. Sometimes dressing the dogs up a little can make a better impression on people who see them at shelters or adoption fairs. Let's make bandannas to help dogs in our local rescues and shelters look cute and friendly so that they can find their "forever homes" faster.

Supplies needed:

- A quantity of inexpensive cotton calico fabric (can be obtained from any fabric store, most craft stores, and also some discount stores). Plan for $\frac{1}{4}$ yard per child, which will allow for approximately 2 medium sized bandannas per child.
- Pinking shears - one pair will suffice, but the process will be quicker with multiple pairs.

Instructions for adult helpers:

- Using the pinking shears, cut the cloth into 18" and/or 36" squares (doesn't need to be perfect - just close enough that the children can then fold the fabric on the diagonal and cut into triangles).
- 18" squares will fit most small to medium sized dogs (and can be folded to fit toy dogs) and 36" squares will fit most large dogs.
- For very large dogs (for instance if you wanted to donate the bandannas to Mastiff Hope) use the full width of fabric (usually 45") and cut 45" in length to make your square.
- Give each child a square of fabric (let them choose their fabrics if you have several colors or patterns), and then put pinking shears on each table for the children to share (or help each child do the cutting if you only have one pair).
- Show the children how to fold their squares neatly in half and press down firmly on the fold to make a crease.
- Then, supervise them as they cut on the fold line (you can also draw lines using any long, straight edge like a yardstick or even a piece of

cardboard, plus either a pencil or chalk, neither of which will show easily once the cloth is cut).

- Encourage the children to try out their bandannas: on themselves, their friends, a stuffed animal, or even your own dog - and take plenty of pictures.
- When you donate the bandannas to the organization of your choice, ask them to take pictures of the dogs wearing the bandannas so that the kids can see the results of their philanthropy (and they can compare these photos to their own pictures, too - might make for a nice scrapbook later on!).

This activity sheet has been made available to you by Sympawtico Dog Training, LLC and your pet care professional:

For more information on working with problem behavior, please contact:

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