

Braided fleece toys for rescue dogs

by Suezanne M. Law

There are many rescue and shelter organizations in the Kansas City area, and they help dogs find new homes. Dogs in shelters and foster homes need toys and playtime to help them stay healthy - both mentally and physically. Let's make braided fleece toys for the dogs in our local rescues and shelters so they have something fun to do while they wait for their "forever homes".

Supplies needed:

- A quantity of inexpensive fleece cloth (can be obtained at most fabric and craft stores).
- Scissors (shears made for cutting cloth are easiest to use).

Instructions for adult helpers:

- Cut the fleece into strips of various lengths depending on the length of tug-toy you wish to make.
- Cut a variety of lengths and let the children choose to make small (18"), medium (36"), or large (48") tugs, if you wish.
- Remember that each child needs three strips to make one tug toy. Each set can be single- or multi-colored. Be creative!
- If you will be working with very young children (Preschool through 3rd grade) tie each set of three strips together at one end.
- Give each child a set of three strips of fabric. If the fabric is not yet knotted together, show the children how to do so.
- Show the children how to make a simple braid with the three strips of fabric, and then supervise as they work.
- When the children finish braiding, show them how to knot the end of their braid to complete the toy. Help the children tighten the knots so that the toys stay together longer.

- Take pictures of the children working on their toys, and encourage them to share the completed toys with stuffed animals or your own dog.
- When you donate the toys to the organization of your choice, ask them to take pictures of the dogs playing or snuggling with them 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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913.424.5072

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