

Fleece blankets 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 blankets to help them stay warm and healthy. Let's make fleece blankets for the dogs in our local rescues and shelters so they can snuggle and be comfy while they wait for their "forever homes".

Supplies needed:

- A quantity of inexpensive fleece cloth (can be obtained at most fabric and craft stores): 1.5 yards each of two different patterns or colors of fleece per blanket for a small to medium dog. Use more fabric to create oblong blankets for larger breed dogs.
- Scissors (shears made for cutting cloth are easiest to use).

Instructions for adult helpers:

- Cut the fleece into 1.5 yard squares (or rectangles for larger dogs) of equal size.
- Remember that each child needs two pieces of fabric to make one blanket. Each set can be single- or multi-colored. Be creative!
- Give each child a set of two squares of fabric. Help the children to carefully smooth one piece of fabric directly on top of the other.
- Show the children how to make simple perpendicular cuts through both thicknesses and along all four edges of the fabric, and then supervise as they work.
- When the children finish cutting, show them how to tie the two pieces of fabric together using the "fringe" that the children cut. Tie each set of fringe (top and bottom) together with a square knot. Help the children tighten the knots so that the blankets stay together securely.

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

Sympawtico Dog Training, LLC

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