



Thank you for your interest in helping the animals of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington!

This *Do-It-Yourself* packet outlines several fun and easy projects that will help our animals have a better experience while in our care!

When your project is finished, please complete the [Passion Into Action Challenge Volunteer Hours Form](#) to let us know how many hours you spent on completing your project, give us feedback on your experience, and schedule the delivery of your completed project items. You will be emailed a copy of your service details once you submit the form.

Note: A Parents may need to assist in completing this form for younger children (an email address is required).

If you have any questions about this project or have an idea for other projects that you'd like to consider, please contact Jennifer Katac, Director of Community Programs at jkatac@awla.org or (703) 931-9241, ext. 213



Cat Pom-Pom

Materials:

- Fleece
- Scissors
- Feathers
- Bells

Instructions:

1. Cut several small strips of fleece.
2. Make a stack of at least 20 strips and use one strip to tie them together in the center, creating a puff.
3. Puffs can be attached to the ends of either a braid tug toy (made by braiding three pieces of fabric together), or left separate.
4. Attach bells and feathers for extra fun!

***Note: Please do not use yarn to make the pom-poms. Cats can unravel the yarn and create a safety hazard.**

How this helps the shelter:

Cat pom-poms make fun toys for cats to play with, providing important exercise for their bodies and minds.



Catnip Toys

Materials:

- Small sock OR felt fabric
- Dried Catnip
- Fabric scraps or cotton balls
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Optional: bells, beads, etc.



Instructions:

1. For the sock toy, put dried catnip in the sock and then stuff with fabric scraps or cotton balls. Tie a knot to close off the top of the sock (or tie off with yarn).
2. To make the goldfish toy, measure and cut a circle, approximately 5-6" in diameter. Gather the felt circle between your thumb and forefinger to make a small pouch. Spoon some dried catnip in the pouch and then stuff tightly with fabric scraps or cotton balls. Tie off and tightly knot the pouch with yarn. If desired, draw cute faces for an added touch of fun or knot bells or beads on the yarn strings for more entertainment!

How it helps the shelter:

Catnip toys encourage play for our cats! These toys engage their senses and the scent of the catnip attracts them to the toy.



Cork Cat Toys

Materials:

- Wine corks
- Epoxy glue or hot glue gun
- Trimmings like jute, raffia, pipe cleaner, bells, etc.
- Scissors or a screwdriver



Instructions:

1. Use the scissors or screwdriver to make a 1” deep hole in one end of the cork. *Note: you can steam or boil the corks to make them easier to cut. Be sure to let the corks dry completely before adding glue and trimmings.
2. Twist the selected trimmings around each other to make a point.
3. Squirt a little epoxy or hot glue into the hole in the cork, then add the pointed end of the trimmings to the hold. Allow to dry completely to ensure the decorations stay in place.

How this helps the shelter:

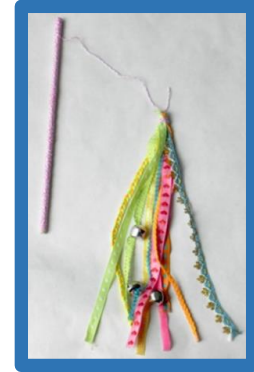
Cats like to play with different types of toys. This cork toy is great for independent play for a cat that is the mood for hunting.



Cat Wand

Materials:

- Wooden Dowel
- Bells
- Fabric scraps – ribbons, clean shoe laces, etc.
- Scissors
- Optional: Baker’s Twine or similar to cover the dowel and Fabric Glue



Instructions:

1. To make your wand look “irresistible”, begin by wrapping the plain wooden dowel with Baker’s Twine. When you finish wrapping the dowel, leave an excess amount (10-12 inches) so that you can tie your fabric scraps to the end. Use a small amount of fabric glue to secure the twine to the dowel, so that it doesn’t unravel.

OR

2. Drill a small hole in one end of the wooden dowel and thread a long piece of the Baker’s Twine through the hole. Tie the twine in a knot to secure it to the wooden dowel.
3. Take all of your fabric scraps and tie them to the end of the Baker’s Twine.
4. Select different scraps of fabric and tie on the jingle bells for added fun!

How this helps the shelter:

This is a great toy for potential adopters, volunteers, and staff to use for cat playtime. It allows the cat to get lots of energy out.



Cat Puzzle

Materials:

- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Empty square or rectangle tissue box or shoe box
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors



Instructions:

1. If using a tissue box, cut off the top so that the box is open.
2. Cut the tubes to the same length as the height of the box if needed.
3. Place the tubes in the box, gluing each one in place as you go. Continue until the box is filled snugly with the tubes.
4. Delivery to the shelter and we will fill the tubes with treats.

How this helps the shelter:

Cat puzzles like this are wonderful to keep our cats busy and entertained. The cat is challenged to use their skills to get the treat out. When successful, the behavior is rewarded with a yummy treat!



Cat Scratch Circle

Materials:

- Cardboard boxes
(all sizes, all kinds, at least 5 medium size boxes)
- Masking tape
- Scissors and ruler
- Scrap paper, felt, or fabric
- Optional: decorative paper or fabric, markers



Instructions:

1. Choose a height for the pad (the example shown is 4")
2. Measure and cut your cardboard in identical width strips. Cut so that the ridges in the cardboard are going horizontally across the strips.
3. Start rolling the cardboard in your hands and bending at each corrugation. The cardboard will start to curl naturally.
4. Tightly wind one strip into a circle and tape closed. This will be the core.
5. Add a new piece and secure with two pieces of masking tape. Choose which side will be the top and make sure that side is always even. It is less important if the other side is slightly uneven; it will still sit properly and the top will look perfect.
6. Keep adding cardboard! Tape each piece right next to the end of the last piece and keep the coiling tight.
7. Cut your decorative paper or fabric and wrap it around the outside. Tape to close. If you prefer, you can draw fun designs or pictures for our cats to enjoy!
8. Place the finished coil onto the scrap fabric or paper and trace and cut out the circle. Tape or glue to the bottom so that we can sprinkle the scratcher with catnip, and it won't spill out.

How this helps the shelter:

Scratching keeps a cat's paws and nails healthy. Sprinkling catnip inside the circle scratcher will draw the cat to the scratcher and encourage its use.

Cardboard Scratch Post

Materials:

- 12" x 12" x ½" plywood board
- 36" Wooden dowel
- Corrugated cardboard
- 1 ½" wood screw
- X-Acto knife
- Power drill
- Glue



Instructions

1. Mark the center of your board and drill a hole.
2. Drill a hole in the center of the dowel.
3. Drill the screw all the way through the board. Using a screwdriver to hold the screw in place, take a dowel in your other hand and twist it onto the screw. Keep twisting until it's securely on.
4. Prepare the cardboard pieces: using the X-Acto knife, cut multiple cardboard squares measuring 6 x 6 inches. Cut out a hole in the middle of each piece the size of the dowel.
5. Stack the cardboard pieces onto the wooden dowel until you've reached the top. Arrange the pieces as desired to create different designs, gluing as you go to keep the pieces in place. You can cap the dowel instead of gluing pieces.

*Note: You can also use a stacked cardboard base if preferred and glue pieces together.

How this helps the shelter:

Cats love to scratch even if they don't have a post to do it on. Having a set scratching post brings physical and health benefits for the cats who love scratching.



Traffic Cone Cat Scratcher

Materials:

- Traffic cone
- Rope or sisal cord
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Scissors
- Yarn

Instructions:

1. Starting at the bottom edge of the square base, apply a thin line of hot glue and press rope into glue. Continue to alternate between glue and rope as you work your way around, following the square shape of the base. As you get to the base of the cone, start working your way from wrapping it in a square shape into a circular shape. Wrap tightly and push down the rope as you go to avoid gaps.
2. Once you get near the top, get your pom-poms and poke the strings down through the hole in the top of the cone. Apply a dab of glue at the top and press the pompom strings into it. Apply more glue and wrap your rope over the pom-pom strings, encasing them within the rope. Switch back to full lines of glue near the top of the cone, gluing the rope to itself as you cover the hole in the top. Cut off excess rope.

You can find instructions for the fabric base cone here:

<http://www.sofancyblog.com/2013/10/make-it-traffic-cone-cat-scratching.html>

How it helps the shelter:

Scratching is actually great for your cat's health. Not only does it keep their claws in proper shape, but it is great exercise and a good way to reduce stress.



Cat Scratch Post

Materials:

- 4 x 4 wood fence post (cut to 20" length)
- Piece of wood for the bottom stand
- 100 feet of sisal rope
- Staple gun and/or nails
- Wood screws
- Craft knife (like X-Acto)
- Optional: 4 x 4 fence post cap, power drill, rug to cover stand, hot glue gun



Instructions:

1. Draw out the placement for your 4x4 post on the piece of wood. When working with a square, draw lines extending from each corner to make an "X" across the wood face. Align the square shape of your post's corners on each of the lines for a perfect center. Trace the square with a pencil. Put a thin line of wood glue inside of the square you have drawn. Place the post inside and hold. Clean up any glue that squeezes out, if necessary.
2. Turn the wood over and drill holes through your bottom square and the 4x4. Drill wood screws into the holes to permanently affix the two pieces of wood together.
3. If you have a decorative cap, attach it now. Stain the entire piece and allow to sit overnight.
4. If you'd like to use a rug to cover the stand, cut a rug to size with a 4x4 square in the middle and with a slit at the back to wrap on the wood and around the 4x4. Use wood glue to affix. You can also paint the bottom stand if you prefer or use a permanent marker to draw fun pictures or designs or write friendly messages for our cats to enjoy!
5. Take the end of your sisal rope and using your hammer and trim screws, attach to the 4 x 4 at the bottom. Wrap the rope snugly around the post, occasionally using a nail to tack down as necessary. You may also use hot glue to attach the sisal rope.

No Sew Cat Blanket

Materials:

- Sharp scissors
- Fleece fabric

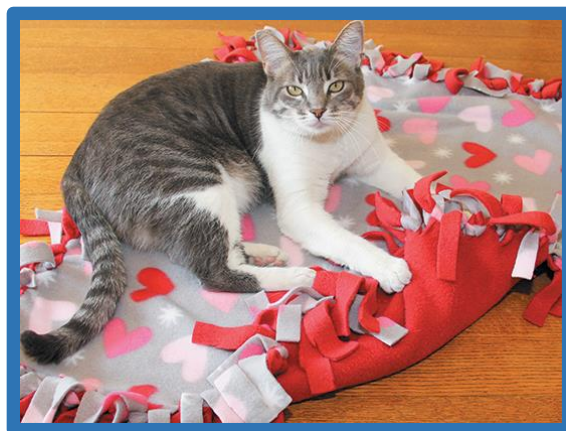
Instructions:

1. Determine the dimensions of the blanket you wish to make, and cut two pieces so that they are the same size (approximately 2' x 3' is a good size for cats and smaller for kittens).
2. Place the fabric pieces one on top of the other, and then cut strips about 2 cm wide and 10 cm long around the entire piece of fabric. Cut through both pieces of fabric at the same time.
3. Once all sides are cut, knot the top and bottom strips together until all of the strips are tied! *Please do not add any stuffing inside the blanket.



How this helps the shelter:

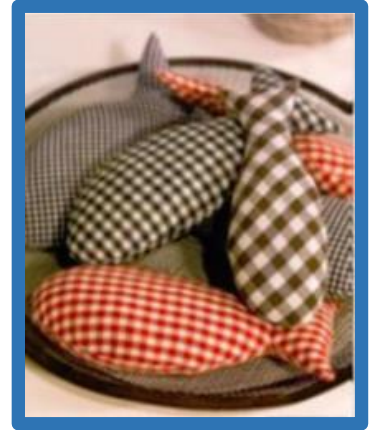
We like to give our cats nice comfy blankets in their kennels. Providing a no sew blanket will ensure our cats have something time to snuggle up on.



Catnip Fish Toy

Materials:

- Fish template
- Fabric
- Pins
- Pinking shears
- Cotton batting or wool scraps
- Piece of paper
- Catnip
- Needle and thread
- Upholstery needle and thin sturdy twine for hanging



Instructions:

1. Trace template onto two layers of fabric. Cut out shapes.
2. Pin right sides together, leaving ¼” seam allowance. Sew seam and leave 1 and ½” inch opening for filling.
3. Trim seams with pinking shears.
4. Turn right side out. Press seams flat.
5. Stuff with cotton batting or wool scraps until firm. Shape a piece of paper into a funnel and use it to add 1 to 2 tablespoons of dried catnip or to fill the whole toy with catnip.
6. Hand-stitch opening closed.
7. If desired, make fishing line: Thread an upholstery needle with 30 inches of thin sturdy twine and sew through the seam of the fish’s mouth. Tie knot to secure.

How this helps the shelter:

Another fun cat nip toy to encourage play for our cats, helping to keep them happy and healthy.

Faux Feather Cat Toy

Materials:

- Feather Template
- Scissors
- Wool felt
- Iron
- Jingle bells
- Satin cord

Instructions:

1. Using templates as guides, cut out one large and one small feather from two pieces of different colored medium-weight wool felt.
2. With a hot iron, press a crease down the center of each feather.
3. Add a jump ring to a jingle bell.
4. Slip one end of a 1-yard length of satin cord through jump ring. At bell, tie seams of feathers to cord with a square knot. Knot both ends of the cord to prevent fraying.



How this helps the shelter:

Cats love chasing after feather toys, they remind them of birds. These toys create a chase play style, helping the cats to release lots of energy.

Catnip Rat

Materials:

- Catnip Rat Template
- Felt
- Stuffing
- Rope
- Catnip
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun and hot glue sticks
- Extra felt (optional eyes)



Instructions:

1. Using the 7 ½” template, cut out the bottom and side pieces of felt, using the circles for ears.
2. Glue the top edges of the side pieces to each other. Glue the bottom piece of felt to the bottom of the side pieces. Be sure to leave an opening in the back to insert stuffing.
3. For your stuffing, use cotton batting and catnip. Cut a piece of rope for the rat’s tail and stuff in the back of the rat. Seal with glue, and glue on the ears. To add eyes, use a marker or felt.

How this helps the shelter:

Cats can’t resist a mouse toy, especially when it smells like catnip! This toy will be lots of fun for our cats to bat around and play with.



Cat Playhouse

Materials:

- Door and window templates (optional)
- 3 same-size sturdy cardboard boxes (our example shows 12 x 14 x 18 inches)
- Pencil
- Decorating items: yarn colored pencils, feathers
- Bone folder
- Ruler
- Rectangle razor blade or utility knife
- Hot-glue gun



Instructions:

1. Trace door and windows on box with pencil.
2. Use knife to cut out door and window squares.
3. Assemble bottom of the first box (the one with the door): Fold in two opposite flaps, generously coat them with hot glue, then fold the remaining two flaps over them. Hold flaps in place until the glue is set. On the open end of the box, cut the flap off of each long side. Cut off half of the flap from one short side, fold it in. Secure flaps to side of box with a line of hot glue. Hold flaps in place until glue is set.
4. Begin making the roof: On the top end of the second box, use a ruler and pencil to draw a line from the top center of one short-side flap to one bottom corner; draw a second line from the top center to the other bottom corner. Repeat on the opposite short-side flap. Cut off one long-side flap, as pictured; set aside. Cut along a penciled line to remove a triangle shape from one short-side flap, as pictured; score the second line. Repeat on second short-side flap, cutting along one line and scoring the other.
5. Cut long-side flaps from the bottom of second box. Cut one short-side flap so that when the box is assembled and stacked on the bottom box, the holes will line up. Secure the flaps to the side of the box with a line of hot glue. Hold flaps in place until glue is set. Coat the top of the bottom box with a generous layer of hot glue. Position the bottom of the top box over it, and hold in place until the glue is set. Use one of the reserved short side flaps and coat one side of it with a generous layer of hot glue. Place it, glue-



coated-side down, as pictured, on the "floor" of the top box for reinforcement.

6. Cut the roof piece (21 1/4-by-46 inches) from third box with a crease down its center when folded short-end to short-end. To attach roof, fold along the scored lines on the short-side flaps at the top of the house. Glue long flap to the folded triangles from the short sides. Generously coat the folded-in pieces with hot glue, and position the roof over them. Hold in place until glue is set. (Don't glue other side of the roof closed. Your cat will enjoy peeking out from under it.)
7. Decorate outside of house for some pazazz! Be creative!

How this helps the shelter:

Cats love exploring new places, especially cardboard boxes! This gives our cat mental exercise and a nice place to go when they want to hide away for a while. Plus, they make for a great picture!



Reach Box Feeder

Materials:

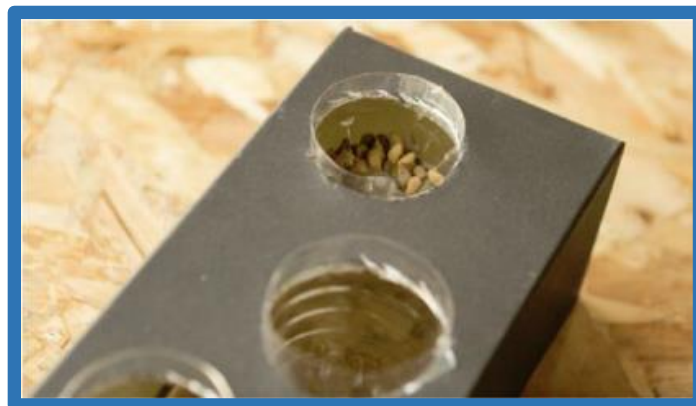
- Showbox
- Three or more plastic water bottles or soda bottles (8oz to 24oz)
- X-ACTO or utility knife
- Duct tape or nontoxic glue

Instructions:

1. Clean and sanitize bottles.
2. Cut the tops off the bottles, varying the height at which you make the cuts.
3. Trace around one of the water bottles on the top of the box. Repeat this step on different locations along the box top, doing it once for each bottle.
4. Cut holes in the box top. If you cut the hole slightly smaller than the border you traced, the narrow bands in the bottle will help hold it in place without tape or glue.
5. Set the box with the bottle openings at the top and place food inside each bottle. The cat will have to reach in to scoop food out.

How this helps the shelter:

Like the Cat Puzzle, this is a great way to encourage our cats to use brain power to get their food!



Decorated Rice Sock

Materials:

- Tube socks
- Markers
- Rice
- Paper



Instructions:

1. Decorate tube socks with markers. Be creative and colorful! Your socks help keep animals recovering from surgery warm.
2. Fill sock with rice. Roll an 8 ½ by 11 inch piece of paper into a cone for a funnel. Insert funnel into sock and pour rice. Amount of rice can vary as socks will be used for small and large animals.
3. Tie a knot at the end of the sock.

How this helps the shelter:

