



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



Hanging Chew Toy

Materials:

- Sisal rope
- Scissors
- Untreated wood pieces with edges (squares, rectangles, etc.)
- Drill (may be needed if wood pieces don't have holes)
- Optional items: popsicle sticks, untreated wicker, cardboard, raffia, bells
 - **Note:** If you use colored wood, please make sure that it is non-toxic.



Instructions:

1. Cut the sisal rope so it is about 12 inches in length and tie a knot at the top.
2. String wood shapes or other items on the rope in any way you want. Get creative!
3. Tie a small knot underneath each wood shape or item to prevent it from slipping down.
4. When finished tying on all pieces, tie a knot at the bottom of you length of rope. Add a bell for some fun!

How this helps the shelter:

New toys help enrich our animals' enviroment. This gives the animal something new to interact with, play with, and chew on.



Rabbit Rattles

Materials:

- Plastic bottle caps
- Heavy twine or sisal rope
- Drill

OR

- Plastic shower curtain rings
- Mason jar rings

Instructions:

Option A

1. Drill a hole through the middle of each plastic lid.
2. Cut a piece of rope approximately 10 inches long. Make a knot about 2 inches from one end of the rope that is larger than the hole you drilled in the cap. Then slide one of the plastic caps on and make another knot to keep the cap in place. Keep doing this until you have 4-5 plastic caps on the string. Securely tie the two ends together to form a circle.

OR

3. Make a knot about 2 inches from the end of the rope that is larger than the hole you drilled in the cap. Then slide 4-5 of the plastic caps and make a knot about 2 inches after the final cap. This will allow the caps to move around, making a great noise when being tossed around by our bunnies! Finish by tying the two ends together to make a circle.

Option B

1. Take a hard plastic shower ring and join together 2-3 Mason jar rings to form a rattle. Quick and easy!

How this helps the shelter:

We give our animals toys like this to keep them active mentally and physically. This is important to keep our rabbits happy and healthy.



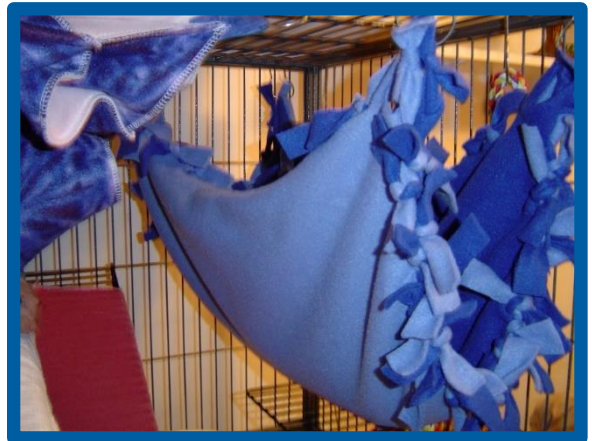
No Sew Rat Hammock

Materials:

- Fleece
- Fabric scissors
- Metal shower curtain hooks or metal book/binder rings

Instructions:

1. Cut two square pieces of fleece the same size.
(Approximately 15" x 15" or 18" x 18")
2. Place one piece on top of the other, and then cut 1' stripes on all sides.
3. Take a strip from the bottom and knot it to the corresponding strip on top.
Do this until all strips are tied together.
4. Securely knot a hood to each corner, and the hammock is ready to go!



How this helps the shelter:

Rat hammocks provides a comfortable place for our rats to snuggle in when they want to burrow and hide.



No Sew Double Hammock

Materials:

- Fleece
- Fabric scissors
- Metal shower curtain hooks or metal book/binder rings
- Measuring tape

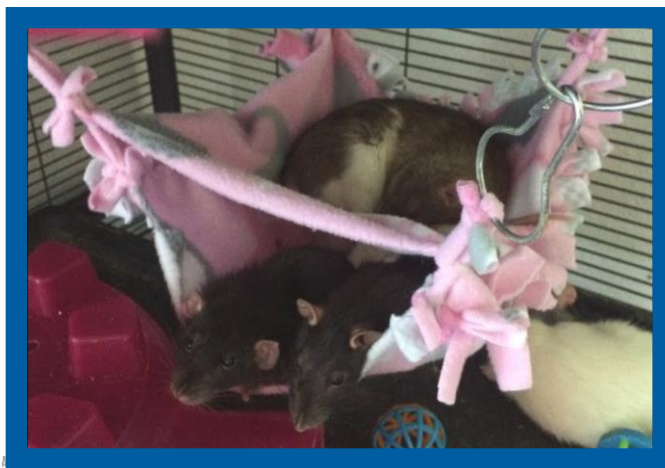
Instructions:

1. Cut two square pieces of each size fleece: 12" x 12" and 30" x 30"
2. Place the two same size pieces on top of each other and cut 4" x 4" squares out of each corner and cut 1" stripes on all sides.
3. Take a strip from the bottom and knot it to the corresponding strip on top. Do not tie the corner strips.
4. Lay the smaller hammock on top of the larger hammock, and knot together the corner strips that you previously left untied.
5. Securely knot a hook to each corner, and your double decker hammock is ready!



How this helps the shelter:

The double decker hammock is a comfy place to cuddle. These are helpful for cages that hold more than one rat, providing two levels of snuggling for them to enjoy!



Rat Trail Mix

Ingredients:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup gluten free pasta
- ½ cup Total cereal
- ½ Kashi cereal
- ¼ cup puffed rice cereal
- ¼ cup cheerios
- ¼ cup sunflower seeds (in shell, raw, no salt)
- ¼ cup pepitas (raw, shelled pumpkin seeds, no salt)



Instructions:

1. Mix the ingredients together and place in a large Ziploc bag for a delicious treat for our rats!

How this helps the shelter:

A tasty snack is a nice treat for our rats and will help keep them happy and healthy.



Small Animal Furniture

For this project we want you to get creative! Below are some suggestions, but think outside of the box and come up with fun furniture pieces for our little residents.

Materials:

- Cardboard
 - Non-toxic school glue
 - Fabric pieces
 - Untreated pieces of wood and/or popsicle sticks
 - Children's non-toxic markers to add color
- Please do not use paint of any type.



Instructions:

Use your creativity to create miniature furniture for the rats and hamsters!

You can find some ideas online here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyPGGOg87Qs>



How this helps the shelter: These items bring interest to the small animal cages and give the rats/hamsters new items to explore during their stay at the League.

