

DIY shelter enrichment items

Toys out of paper towel or toilet paper rolls:

- TP ball: Cut four pieces of paper towel roll about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. Then make into a ball by slipping them together making a star like pattern.
- Crazy TP: Take a TP roll and cut slits into the top and bottom $\frac{1}{3}$. (This should sort of look like a rope toy. Solid in the middle, and fringe on the ends.)



Fake feather toys: These can be made out of fleece or felt. Cut two feathers out of different colors of fleece. Then cut a piece of yarn about a foot long. At the end of each feather, cut a small slit so that you can slip the yarn through. Pull the yarn through the holes on the two feathers. Then knot the two feathers securely together. Tie a jingle bell on with the feathers for added fun so we can use them as noise maker toys for our shelter cats!

Fleece ring toys: Slide the ring off of a milk or juice jug. Rinse off the ring and dry. You can also use plastic shower curtain rings. Cut about 20 strips of fleece, (or any fabric) that are about 5 - 6 inches long and $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. Knot a strip of fleece around the ring in a double knot. Keep tying fleece strips around the ring until it is full.

Feather toys: Take a paper cupcake wrapper (paper cupcake pan liner) and using non-toxic school glue, apply colored feathers to the bottom of cupcake wrapper. The fun noise of the paper and the feathers will make a great toy. Feathers **MUST** be non-toxic craft plumage feathers. ***Please do not use feathers from birds or quill feathers as these could harm our cats.*** (You could also use coffee filters or TP/paper towel rolls instead of cupcake wrappers.)



Noise maker toys: Noise maker toys can be made out of clean pill bottles that have child proof lids. The bottles should be free of all labels and residue. All bottles must have working child proof lids so that the cat cannot open the bottle. Bottles should also be the smaller to medium size, no large pill bottles please. Items can be placed inside of the bottle so that when a cat plays with the toy a noise is made. Ideas: jingle bells, marbles, small balls of tin foil, paper clips, etc.

Ping Pong ball cat toys: Cat toys can be made out of ping pong balls and pipe cleaners. Ping Pong balls can be decorated using sharpies. Kids can write notes or draw pictures for the cats! An adult will need to use an X-acto knife to make two cuts in a ping pong ball. Then insert a pipe cleaner through one cut and out

the other cut forming a loop. (Small wiffle balls can also be used as they already have holes in them.☺)
Then at the shelter staff will use the pipe cleaner to attach the ping pong ball to a cat's cage so they have a new toy to play with!

Cat hiding places: At the shelter cats love to have shoe boxes to hide in or sleep in. The cats enjoy something new in their environment where they can hide or find some quiet time. Young volunteers can decorate the boxes before placing them in with the cats.

Scratching posts: Scratching posts can be made by wrapping rope or twine around a 2 x 4. These can be made for cat colonies and smaller scales can possibly be made for the condos. Sand down wood board so that there are no rough edges. Wrap the rope around the board making sure to glue down each loop. (A hot glue gun works best.) Press the rope down in the glue to make sure it sticks.

Tie blankets for the shelter pets: 1-1/2 yards each of a fabric usually makes a throw sized blanket. We like blankets throw sized for dogs but also love to have small blankets to give to cats and kittens in their cages. We would love a variety of sizes for all the variety of animals we care for!

1. Get two different colors of fleece that are the same size.
2. Lay out your fleece with the wrong sides facing each other. That way the pretty sides can be used by the animals! (Make the wrong sides of the fabrics touching each other and the right side of the bottom layer facing down on the table and the right side of the top layer facing the ceiling.)
3. Measure and cut out a 4x4 square in each corner.
4. Using scissors cut strips 1" x 4" all the way around.
5. Tie each strip twice to make a knot.
6. When all the strips are tied you are good to go!

Making a Kuranda bed for dogs:

Supplies:

- 1-1/4" PVC Pipe (white schedule 40 PVC pipe works best) – (About 11.5 feet)
- 1-1/4" 3 Way PVC Fittings (also known as side outlet elbows) – (4)
- 1-1/4" PVC Flat Caps – (4)
- 1/2" Round washer head screws – (32)
- Outdoor fabric – (42" x 32")
- Power Drill
- PVC Cutting Tool (cutter or saw)
- Tape Measure
- Fabric glue (if desired)

How to:

1. Cut the pipe into eight pieces; four 4" pieces, two 23-1/2" pieces, and two 32-1/2" pieces. Measure these sections with your tape measure and cut them with a PVC cutter, a standard hand saw, or an electric saw if you have one. Adult supervision is needed when using tools!
2. Use the 3-way fittings to fit the four longer pieces of pipe together to make a rectangular frame. The 3-way fittings should point down, as this is where the legs will go.
3. After you have assembled the frame, fit the four 4" pieces into the 3-way fittings and slip the flat caps over the ends of those four pieces (caps go on the bottom of the legs). These will be the legs and feet of the PVC pipe bed. If you have it on its back, flip the bed over to make sure it sits correctly and the measurements look correct. Make sure the bed sits flat on the ground and is not wobbly.
4. Lay the fabric face down (pretty side to the ground and rough side facing the ceiling), flip the bed frame onto its back, and lay it on top of the fabric. It should be centered so there is an even amount

of excess fabric extending from each side. Make dog-ear folds on each corner of the fabric. This will give the elevated PVC dog bed a finished look once it is completed.

5. Next, make a half inch fold along one edge of the fabric, using fabric glue to hold it in place if necessary. This will be where you drill to attach the fabric to the frame. Wrap the folded fabric over the PVC pipe it is close to and screw the fabric into the pipe. Make sure you screw through the half inch fold you made! Place screws every 4 inches or so along the length of the pipe. Once you've attached the fabric the whole way down that side, drill each screw into the pipe to keep it secure.
6. Once one side is secure, move to the opposite side and repeat the process. Make a half inch fold and screw it to the pipe every 4 inches. Once you have done that, use a wrench or a friend to grab the pipe and turn it inwards, stretching the fabric until taught. While holding the pipe tight, screw the two fittings into the pipe just like the other side.
7. Repeat this process for the other two sides, making sure the fabric is tight and secure across the frame. Once that is completed, you have a finished PVC pipe dog bed.

Detailed instructions with pictures and video can be found here.

<http://www.pvcfittingsonline.com/resource-center/pvc-elevated-dog-bed-plans/>



Making Elevated Cat Beds:

Supplies:

- Four - 3 way PVC fittings to fit 1" PVC pipes. (also known as side outlet elbows)
- One - 8', 1" white PVC (white schedule 40 PVC pipe works best)
 - Cut to the following lengths:
 - 2 - 11 ½"
 - 4 - 12 ½"
 - 2 - 17 ½"
- Four 1" PVC Flat Caps
- ½" Round washer head screws - (26)
- Outdoor fabric - (24" x 31")
- Power Drill
- PVC Cutting Tool (cutter or saw)
- Tape Measure
- Fabric glue (if desired)

How to: (made the same way as the dog bed just different dimensions)

1. Cut the pipe into eight pieces; two 11 ½" pieces, four 12 ½" pieces, two 17 ½" pieces. Measure these sections with your tape measure and cut them with a PVC cutter, a standard hand saw, or an electric saw if you have one. Adult supervision is needed when using tools!

2. Use the 3-way fittings to fit the four longer pieces of pipe together to make a rectangular frame. The 3-way fittings should point down, as this is where the legs will go.
3. After you have assembled the frame, fit the four 12 ½" pieces into the 3-way fittings and slip the flat caps over the ends of those four pieces (caps go on the bottom of the legs). These will be the legs and feet of the PVC pipe bed. If you have it on its back, flip the bed over to make sure it sits correctly and the measurements look correct. Make sure the bed sits flat on the ground and is not wobbly.
4. Lay the fabric face down (pretty side to the ground and rough side facing the ceiling), flip the bed frame onto its back, and lay it on top of the fabric. It should be centered so there is an even amount of excess fabric extending from each side. Make dog-ear folds on each corner of the fabric. This will give the elevated PVC cat bed a finished look once it is completed.
5. Next, make a half inch fold along one edge of the fabric, using fabric glue to hold it in place if necessary. This will be where you drill to attach the fabric to the frame. Wrap the folded fabric over the PVC pipe it is close to and screw the fabric into the pipe. Make sure you screw through the half inch fold you made! Place screws every 4 inches or so along the length of the pipe. Once you've attached the fabric the whole way down that side, drill each screw into the pipe to keep it secure.
6. Once one side is secure, move to the opposite side and repeat the process. Make a half inch fold and screw it to the pipe every 4 inches. Once you have done that, use a wrench or a friend to grab the pipe and turn it inwards, stretching the fabric until taught. While holding the pipe tight, screw the two fittings into the pipe just like the other side.
7. Repeat this process for the other two sides, making sure the fabric is tight and secure across the frame. Once that is completed, you have a finished PVC pipe cat bed.

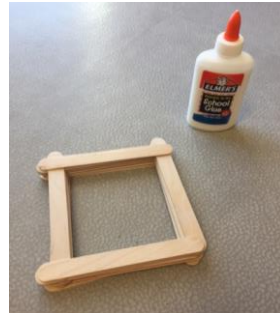
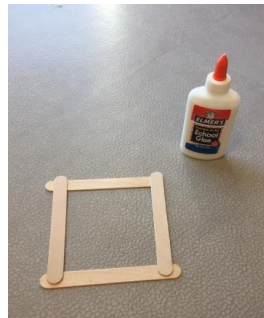
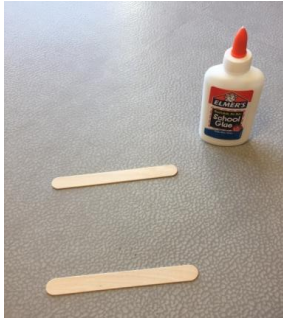


Critter Enrichment:

Supplies: Non-toxic school glue and wooden (unused) popsicle sticks or tongue depressors.

Little Hut:

Using non-toxic school glue and tongue depressors you can make a fun little house for small rodents. Create a square by alternating the two sides you add tongue depressors to. Place a small amount of glue where the next tongue depressor rests. Keep alternating tongue depressors until you have a desired height. Let it dry for 12 - 24 hours.



Teeter-Totter:

Using a toilet paper roll, non-toxic school glue and tongue depressors you can crate a teeter-totter for small rodents. Take three tongue depressors and glue them side by side on one side of the roll. Let it dry for 12 - 24 hours.



Climbing Wall: Take two tounge depressors and lay them parlallel to eachother on stick length apart. Then take two tounge depressors and make a triangle on each side. Glue the sticks together to form a triangle. This may take some team effor. Placing a tounge depressor on the top to connect the two triangles may add support. Let it dry. Then add some tounge depressors on the side so the critters can climb on it. Let it dry for 12 - 24 hours.

