



COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Children and youth are some of the greatest supporters of animals and the work we do at the Vanderburgh Humane Society. Fortunately, there are many ways for youth to help the animals in our care! The following list outlines a variety of options for young people to help Vanderburgh Humane while earning credit.

Knit Blankets for Cats Awaiting Adoption

All of the cats in our care receive a blanket or towel to make their cat cubby more comfortable. The cats especially love knit blankets. This is a great way to learn a new skill, or practice an old one, and benefit the cats on our campus.

Fleece Blankets for Cats and Dogs Awaiting Adoption

We always need blankets for our animals. If you are not into knitting, as mentioned above, you might consider an easier version of making blankets. We take blankets of all sizes, but for cats we suggest at least 18x 20 (or bigger) and for dogs, 40x25 (or bigger).



For a video and/or written tutorial on how to make these blankets please visit the following links:

- 👉 Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQrkU9dN54s>
- 👉 Written Instructions: <http://www.projectlinus.org/patterns/pdf/NoSewFB.pdf>

Hold a Cat Toy Drive for Our Cat Enrichment Program

Although the cats in our care receive toys, blankets, and treats on a daily basis, we always try to provide them with as much stimulation as possible. Enrichment can be provided through food (canned food, treats), furniture (scratching posts and stepstools), toys (balls and flyers), olfactory stimulants (catnip), and/or auditory stimulants (music and nature sounds). These physical and psychological stimuli provide numerous benefits, such as increasing the cats' overall well-being and their ability to get adopted.



The following items are needed for our Cat Enrichment Program:

- 👉 Furry mice
- 👉 Multi-colored lattice balls
- 👉 Hard plastic balls with bells
- 👉 Catnip stuffed toys
- 👉 Cat dancers or “fishing poles”
- 👉 Interactive cat toys
- 👉 "Heard that Bird" cat toy with wand

*****Or make your own.....**

Cat Scratch Toys

Cats have a natural tendency to scratch items as a way to stretch and trim their nails. We are always looking for inexpensive ways for our cats to exercise these natural instincts and homemade cat scratchers are a great option.



Recycled Cardboard Kitty Pad

Supplies needed:

- 👉 Cardboard boxes (all sizes, all kinds, at least 5 medium size boxes)
- 👉 Masking tape
- 👉 X-Acto blade and ruler
- 👉 Scrap paper, felt, or fabric
- 👉 Decorative paper or fabric

Instructions:

- 👉 Choose a height for the pad (pictured above is 4")
- 👉 Measure and cut your cardboard in identical width strips.
- 👉 Cut so that the ridges in the cardboard are going horizontally across the strips.



- 👉 Start rolling the cardboard in your hands and bending at each corrugation, the cardboard will start to curl naturally.
- 👉 Tightly wind one strip into a circle and tape closed. This will be the core of your round.
- 👉 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.
- 👉 Keep adding! Tape each piece right next to the end of the last piece and keep the coiling tight.
- 👉 Cut out a scrap fabric or paper trim; decorate/color; and wrap it around the outside. Glue to outside for trim/decoration.

For an advanced cat scratch post activity:

<http://maisonquotidien.com/2013/07/19/catscraper-diy-cat-scratching-post/>

Kitty Condos

Cats love to hide out in different types of nooks and crannies. If you are interested in building a house similar to the one pictured below we would love to share them with our kitties.

Supplies needed:

- 👉 Cardboard box
- 👉 Non-toxic glue
- 👉 Colored paper/crayons/other crafting materials to decorate a box
- 👉 Creativity

Note: There are many varieties of these boxes, as such please search the internet for “how to” instructions that best meet your project needs. Also, please label all boxes with the name of the person/group making boxes so we can celebrate these houses and let visitors know who is helping make our kitties more comfortable!





Edible Cat Grass

Cats love to eat grass. Help provide grass for our adoptable cats by planting some of your own.

Supplies needed:

- 👉 Clean cat/dog food cans (small/half sizes)
- 👉 Potting soil
- 👉 Cat grass seeds (may be called wheatgrass, as well)

Instructions:

- 👉 Place 3-6 seeds in bottom of can
- 👉 Add potting soil up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of can (leave about $\frac{1}{4}$ of can at top)
- 👉 Add water - just enough to moisten the soil (hint: do not over water as this will prevent seeds from growing)
- 👉 Place cans in sunny area for a week
- 👉 Add moisture to soil as it becomes dry throughout the growing process
- 👉 Over the next two weeks watch your grass bud and bloom into full blades.

Cat Enrichment Toys

This activity uses old tissue boxes and toilet paper rolls and provides hours of entertainment for our cats. This enrichment toy keeps cats engaged and challenges their minds to figure out how to get the treat.

Supplies needed:

- 👉 Old Kleenex/facial tissue box and toilet paper rolls
- 👉 Scissors
- 👉 Zip tie
- 👉 Hot glue gun and glue sticks

Instructions:

- 👉 Remove top of tissue box and cut two small holes in middle of back panel
- 👉 Weave zip tie through holes and glue down (this will make it possible to secure box to a chair or other object so that box does not flip over and dump out treats all at once!)
- 👉 Glue toilet paper tubes to each other and then to inside of tissue box so that nothing moves around
- 👉 Done! – You have created a toy where cats are challenged to get a treat.



Pictures of final product:



Captivating Catnip Toys

We try to provide a healthy environment for the cats awaiting adoption, which includes giving them plenty of toys. One of their favorites is catnip-filled socks. All you need are baby socks, cotton balls, dried catnip, and a needle and thread (optional). You can tie the end of the sock off with a knot instead of sewing.

Instructions:

- 👉 Take a baby sock and fill it with cotton balls
- 👉 Add a wad of catnip in the center – a teaspoon or so should work
- 👉 Sew off the top of the sock and clip any loose threads or tie in a knot
- 👉 You're done!

Cat Bell Toy #1 and Fringe Ball #2

Supplies needed:

- 👉 Bell
- 👉 Fleece
- 👉 Scissors



Instructions #1:

- 👉 Take a ball and thread a thin piece of fleece about 6" long thru the end
- 👉 Add 2-3 more strips of fleece and then tie all the pieces together with a knot



#1



#2

Instructions #2:

- 👉 Stack 5 pieces of fleece on top of each other and cut into a 4" x 7" rectangle
- 👉 Fold the rectangle in half the long way and make 1/4" wide cuts along the 7" open side leaving a little bit of material attaching them in the middle
- 👉 Roll the fleece together and tie tightly in the middle
- 👉 Spread out all the fleece strips and you're done

Dog Bed Cushions

Have some old towels lying around and not sure what to do with them? This activity helps our adoptable dogs stay comfortable while they wait for their new home. For instructions and pictures please visit the following link:

<http://www.marthastewart.com/909968/cozy-travel-cushion-pets#Dog%20Crafts|/275173/dog-crafts/@center/307040/pet-projects|909968>

Dog Toy Cushions

Smaller dogs love toys to snuggle, chew and play with. If you would like to provide some comfort for our animals learn more here:

<http://prettyfluffy.com/diy-tutorials/diy-projects/diy-no-sew-heart-toy>

Dog Enrichment Toys





Toy enrichment is one way to curb boredom and present a dog with a fun and challenging task.









Dog Tug Toys

Help our dogs stay engaged with play in their cubbies by making a pull/chew dog toy.

Supplies needed:

-  *Old ball (a tennis ball* works great)*
-  *About 1/2 yard of Fabric*
-  *A piece of ribbon*
-  *Scissors*

Instructions:

-  Gather supplies – can use old t-shirts, balls kids no longer use or buy new
-  Cut fabric into two strips - roughly 6" x 14" (can adapt to really any size)
-  Fold the fabric strips in half and wrap around ball (place ball in the center of the folds).
-  Tie your ribbon as tight as you can around the base of the ball after wrapping it several times around
-  Cut tail of your fabric into several 2" wide strips; then using three strips at a time braid them into sections. Try to make braids as tight as possible (it's harder for little teeth to rip them apart)
-  Using excess fabric at the end of each braid tie several knots to keep the braids in place

Pictures of steps:





Final product:



Dog PVC Pipe Food Dispenser

This easy to make item can help combat kennel boredom. Use **FOOD GRADE PVC PIPE** (2" x 10") and buy 2 end caps (make one side a screw top so it can be easily cleaned). Drill 1 or 2 small holes (3/4") just a bit bigger than our dog kibble. Not only will the dogs be enriched through the puzzle feature, they can put the device in their mouths and satisfy a bit of the drive for stimulation in the mouth.

NOTE: Please make this size dispenser only. No smaller sizes.

<http://www.aspcapro.org/blog/2014/02/25/let-them-chew>
<http://newleafnickie.blogspot.com/2010/07/diy-dog-toy.html>



Outreach Projects

Coordinate A Coin Drive

Collect coins from family, friends and neighbors. You can monitor a coin collection at a business. When the can is full, bring it to the Vanderburgh Humane and replace it with a new one.



Host A Fundraiser

Young people are often our most creative fundraisers! You can get involved in a variety of fundraising projects and then donate the proceeds to the animals. We have had children hold bake sales, yard sales, craft sales, pet fashion shows, and much more! Feel free to use your imagination to come up with a fundraising idea.

Create A Viral Video

Create a video we can upload to our Facebook page. This can be about any animal related topic that applies to homeless animals, shelter animals or education topics. Contact the Humane Education Coordinator (c.donley@vhs lifesaver.org) for more information.

Complete An Outreach Activity

Organize a bake sale, lemonade stand, car wash, etc.

Conduct A Pet Supply Drive

A very helpful way to volunteer is to organize a pet supply drive in your neighborhood or school. Donations of pet food, supplies, toys and cat litter are always appreciated.

Always most in need of:

- ✓ Purina Cat or Kitten Chow
- ✓ Wet cat food (Friskies Pate' Style)
- ✓ Moist and Meaty Steak Flavor dog food (for training treats)
- ✓ Wet dog food
- ✓ Catnip
- ✓ Cat toys
- ✓ Large, sturdy dog toys (Kongs, Nylabones, etc.)
- ✓ Check out our Wish List for updated requests at:

<https://secure.vhs lifesaver.org/help/donations.html>

Participate In Our Foster Parent Program

If your entire family is interested in helping animals, consider participating in our Foster Parent Program. In this program, volunteer families care for young or ill animals until they are ready for adoption. This is an entire family project, as the animals are in your home for several days or several weeks and may require special feeding and/or medicating. For more information on this lifesaving program, visit https://secure.vhs lifesaver.org/help/volunteer_programs.html. If your family is interested in fostering, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator (c.donley@vhs lifesaver.org).

Our animals and staff thank you!