



Hello!

Thank you for your interest in helping the animals at our Animal Care Centers. Shelter animals are always in need of the loving and compassionate support that a volunteer can offer and there are many ways to help enrich their lives. The following list will get you started in thinking about how you can support the work of our staff.

If you need the hours for school, once you've decided on a project and a care center, fill out the top of the Volunteer Community Service Time Sheet starting with the project name. The name can be anything that you like such as -Operation Bunny Drop. Fill in the rest of the information. Then, as you begin to work on your project, start a log of all your activities – include the date, activity and how many hours you spent. It may start to look like this:

Date	Activity	# of Hours
1/21/23	Went shopping for ingredients	0.5 hours
1/22/23	Mixed/baked recipe	1.5 hours
1/25/23	Took homemade biscuits to shelter	1 hour

Keep track of all your activities and hours. When you are done with the project, bring you completed and signed hours sheet along with the donation project to the care center. A staff member will accept the items and sign off on your paper. If you have any questions, please e-mail our office at volunteer@animalcare.lacounty.gov. We thank you for your efforts and know that you have helped to enrich the life of a shelter animal!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS LIST

Bunny Garden

Materials:

- Clean old margarine container
- Potting soil
- Seeds for grass, alfalfa, carrots, or lettuce.



Punch a few little holes in the bottom of your container and put on plate. Add you soil to ½ inch of the top. Moisten the soil and let it drain. Plant your seeds into the soil.

Keep this moist but do not drown. Keep in moderate indirect sun. When the seeds sprout and are 2 inches or more give the planter to the bunny and start another.

Homemade Dog Treats



Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup canned pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon water, or more if necessary (Optional)

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Combine flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl; stir with a spatula until combined.
3. Transfer mixture to a work surface and work it with your hands until mixture starts to come together. Add 1 teaspoon water at a time (only if needed) to help make the dough workable, but don't add too much as it should be dry and stiff.
4. Roll the dough to a thickness of 1/2 inch.
5. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces and transfer to a baking sheet.
6. Bake in the preheated oven until dog treats are golden brown and crunchy, about 40 minutes. Let cool before serving to your dog.

Designing 'Adopt Me' Bandanas



Materials:

- Colored markers
(fabric markers work the best, but don't use washable markers)
- Solid-color bandanas: The size will vary based on dog or cat. The bandana should be folded once in a triangle and must be able to tie completely around the dog's or cat's neck. You can also find special doggie-sized triangle bandanas online.

Size Chart:

Small	neck size 12-14"
Medium	neck size 15-17"
Large	neck size 18-21"
X-Large	neck size 22-24"
2XL	neck size 25-27"

Instructions - Place the folded bandana on the table and draw only on the side that faces up. Your goal is to get the animals who wear these bandanas noticed—and thereby get adopted--so your bandanas should be colorful and fun. Include some words or phrases on your bandanas. Some examples of phrases:

Some examples of phrases for your bandanas:

Adopt Me!

Shelter Dogs are Cool! or Shelter Cats are Cool!

I'll Be Your Best Friend!

Help Me Find A Home!!

When finished decorating your bandana, lie it flat for a minute to make sure that your design doesn't smear.

Grow Cat Grass

You may use wheat, rye, barley, oats or flax seeds



Materials:

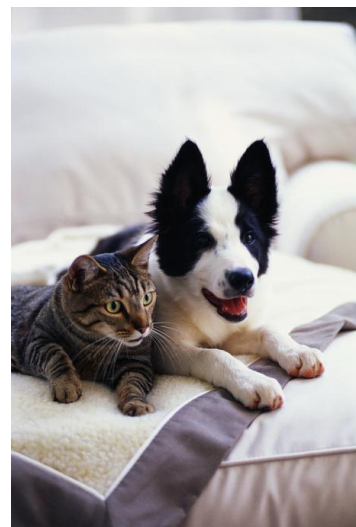
- Small Plastic Pot
- Potting soil
- Wheat grass seed
- Water
- A well-lit window

Probably the easiest grass to grow from seed for a cat is wheat grass. You can grow your own from seed.

Just drop the big seeds close together on the surface of the soil. (You can put a thin layer of soil on top if you wish.) Keep the soil moist and within a few days you will see little grass-like sprouts. They grow really fast and you can put your pot of grass onto a surface your cat frequents within a couple more days. Keep it where it gets some sun or at least good light and don't let it dry out.

Spay and Neuter Education

Provide information on the importance of spay/neutering your pet to your schoolmates, your scout troop, your church group or your friends' groups or organizations. Give a short presentation, do a skit – whatever (be creative)! If you choose this check out information from the SPCA and Humane Society in your area or online.



Feather Cat Wand



Materials: Wire hanger, feathers, 2 feet of fishing line, hair tie

Tools: Pliers

The plan for this Feather Cat Wand combines fishing line and feathers to trigger your cat's desire to hunt. Since the string holding the feather clump is nearly invisible, your cat will only see it as it flips around, mimicking the movements of prey.

You can use any feathers that you'd like. Many options are available at craft stores. It's worth mentioning that dyed feathers can bleed onto carpets and furniture if they get wet, so natural feathers are best. If you'd still prefer to use feathers that are different colors, a solution would be to take the cat toy away when playtime is over so your cat can't continue to lick the feathers.

Interactive Dog Toy

(Best for older kids with adult supervision)



Materials:

a 3-foot length of 1-1/4-inch PVC pipe

8 1-1/4-inch PVC caps

PVC cement (optional)

Tools:

Our interactive dog feeder was constructed using tools that many homes already have:

a drill

a 1/2-inch drill bit

sandpaper

a rat-tail file (or you could wrap sandpaper around a screwdriver)

a vise (optional)

With our 3-foot length of PVC, we made four feeders: two one-foot lengths and two six-inch lengths for small dogs and cats.

Measuring and Marking:

Putting the PVC pipe in the vise, John first measured and marked the pipe.

NOTE: It's easier to do all the measuring, marking and drilling BEFORE cutting the pipe into smaller lengths.

Since we wanted both cat and dog feeders, we made 6-inch and 12-inch feeders, marking with a Sharpie pen directly on the PVC where the cuts would be made, as well as where the holes would be drilled.

Drilling

To make the drilling easier, John first drilled pilot holes in the PVC using a small standard bit then used a 1/2-inch paddle bit to drill holes.

In case the shelter was using larger sized kibble, he made one feeder with 3/4-inch holes.

Cutting

The next step was to cut the PVC into lengths.

Sanding and Deburring

Drilling into the PVC can produce ragged edges so the next step was sanding and deburring or removing the jagged bits around each hole.

John used a grinding bit on his drill to knock off the larger pieces and then followed with sandpaper; you could also just use sandpaper.

To smooth inside the holes, John used a rat-tail file; if you don't have one, just wrap a piece of sandpaper around a screwdriver and sand inside the holes.

Cleaning

Once all the parts are cut and sanded, put the PVC lengths and caps into the dishwasher for cleaning (or wash in hot, soapy water by hand).

Use a baby bottle brush to clean inside the PVC tube.

Allow all pieces to dry completely.

Capping

Next, John used the PVC caps to seal the ends of each feeder.

These caps fit tightly; we didn't have to use the PVC cement we had purchased. If the caps don't fit tightly, you'll need to cement one end of the pipe, leaving the other end unglued for filling and cleaning.

An alternative is to drill directly through the cap and PVC and thread sisal twine through the hole, tying it off to keep the cap in place.

Source - <https://www.dogtipper.com/diy/2014/09/diy-how-to-make-an-interactive-feeder-or-toy-paw2014.html>

Holiday Decorations

During the Holidays, make us some cute decorations for our Animal Care Centers



Felt Wreath

Simply tie strips of green felt around a wreath form to create this fluffy and fun holiday decor.

To make: Cut strips of two different shades of green felt. Tie strips around a wreath form. Attach small red ornaments throughout the wreath with hot glue. Loop a length of wide ribbon around the wreath to hang.



Glittering Popsicle Stick Christmas Trees

Materials

- 3 Green Popsicle Sticks
- 1 Purple Popsicle Stick
- 4 " of Twine Sticker Rhinestones
- Glittery Foam Star Stickers
- Hot Glue
- Instructions
- Cut the green popsicle sticks into 6 pieces in 1/2", 1", 1-1/2", 2", 2-1/2" and 3" lengths.

Instructions:

- To cut the popsicle sticks, firmly cut into the popsicle stick on both sides of the popsicle stick a few times. Then bend it and it should cleanly snap apart where you scored it.
- Add a generous glob of hot glue on the end of the purple popsicle stick, place both ends of the twine on top of the glue, then sandwich the 1/2" piece of green popsicle stick on top to hold the twine hanger in place.
- Line up the remaining 5 green popsicle stick pieces evenly on the purple popsicle stick and glue them in place with hot glue.
- Use hot glue to attach the sparkly foam sticker star.
- Decorate your tree with the glittery rhinestones!

Clothespins Snowflake Ornaments



Materials:

- Clothespins
- Craft glue
- White acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Foam paintbrush
- White glitter
- Red string
- Scissors

Instructions:

- Carefully slide the metal clips off of eight clothespins and discard.
- Reattach two wood clothespin pieces by gluing the flat sides together. Repeat for the remaining wood pieces.
- Arrange these reattached wood pieces in the shape of a snowflake, as shown, and glue together at the base; let dry completely.
- Apply white paint to the edges and one side of the snowflake. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle on white glitter.
- Once dry, flip the snowflake over and apply paint and glitter to the other side.
- Slip a length of red string through one of the openings in the snowflake and tie the ends into a bow; use to hang.

Cat Hammock

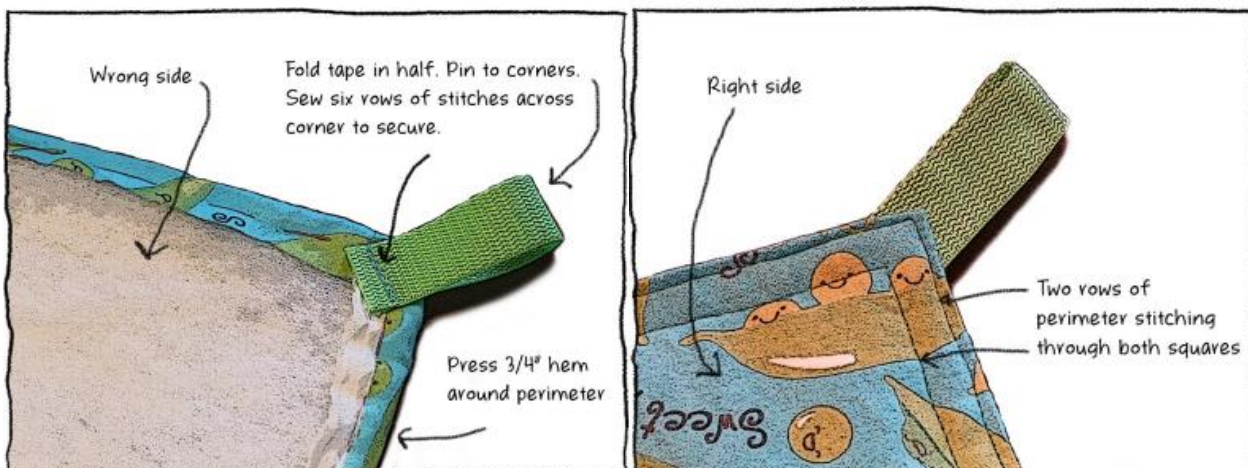


MATERIALS:

- Two 19 ½ inch squares of fabric
 - Tightly woven cotton/fleece fabrics work best
- 24 inches of webbing ribbon or strong tape cut into 6 inch lengths for loops
- Optional: Batting that is the exact size of the finished hammock (18 inch square)

STEPS:

1. Press ¾" hem on all sides of one square on the wrong side. If batting is used, baste this along the hem. Fold tape in half to form a loop and pin on wrong side of fabric in each corner. Sew about 6 rows of stitches across the corners to secure the tape, as shown below.
2. Take the second square and press the same ¾ inch hem on all sides as first square.
3. Put the two squares together with the wrong sides facing each other. Pin in place and sew a line of stitches all around the perimeter as close to the edge as possible through both pieces of fabric. Sew a second row of stitches about ½ inch in from perimeter to ensure a strong bond of both fabrics.



Source - OAKLAND ANIMAL SERVICES oaklandanimalservices.org

Wish List Drives

Animal Food Drives – Collect **unopened** bags, boxes, or cans of animal food. You can involve an entire school by keeping a marked bin in the cafeteria as a drop off point.

Biscuit Drives – Collect **unopened** bags or boxes of dog biscuits and/or cat treats or make some of your own (see above recipes).

Blanket/Towel Drives – Throwing away that old blanket or towel. Stop! Shelter animals enjoy cuddling and laying on blankets and towels can also be used when grooming the animals for adoption. Collect blankets and towels for use at the shelter.

Wishlist Drives

Go by your local shelter and find out what their special needs are. Here are some standard items:

- Kitten and Puppy Formula
- Durable puppy/dog toys: Kong, Nylabone, Indestructible Ball (Please NO small toys, rawhides, tennis balls or stuffed toys)
- Grooming supplies, brushes, combs



Youth Community Service Time Sheet



Name of Project: _____ Care Center: _____

Name: _____ Grade/Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____ Age: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Date	Activity	# of Hours
Total		

Student's Signature Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature Date

Teacher's Signature Date

Care Center Staff's Signature Date