

# Help from Home

## **I. Cat Enrichment**

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# Catnip Socks



## Supplies Needed:

- Colorful socks without glitter or anything extra on them like rubber grippers
- Cotton batting (for stuffing pillows or quilts)
- Catnip

These socks are simple and that's why we like them! They do not include any strings or ties that can fall off and become a hazard.

Step 1 (and the only step!): You simply stuff cotton into the bottom of the sock, add in a teaspoon of catnip and top off with a bit more cotton. Leave enough room so that you can tie the neck of the sock in a knot.

Voila – a fun and safe toy that cats can have in their in cages and take home with them at adoption.

# Cat Fishing Rod



## Supplies Needed:

- Thicker Dowel Rods
- Eye Hooks
- 1/2-1" strips of fleece 4 ft in length

Screw an eye hook into one end of the dowel rod. Tie 1 or 2 pieces of fleece to the eye hook. Now you have yourself a cat fishing rod!

For more fun: Use multiple pieces of fleece. Add color by painting your dowel rod with non-toxic paint and choosing fun fabrics. Pick themes for each fishing rod, or even add a toy fish at the end!

# Cardboard Box Scavenger Hunt



## Supplies Needed:

- A good eye and a taste for adventure!
- Measuring tape

Boxes make great hideaways for cats that are feeling a little shy at the shelter. We are always in need of sturdy and clean boxes to help make these “cardboard castles.”

You can help by gathering boxes that fit our cats and kittens and leave room in their condos for food, water, and a litterbox. Next time you or your parents get a package in the mail, grab your measuring tape to see if it’s the right fit for a cat in need. **We are looking for boxes between 10-12 inches high/ 10-12 inches wide/ and 12-15 inches long.**

You can flatten them for easy storage and drop them off at either of our two shelter locations.

# Outdoor Shelters for Community Cats

## Option 1

### Supplies Needed:

- 18 gallon tote container in dark or earth tones
- Styrofoam cooler, just slightly smaller than the 18-gallon container
- Box Cutter



1. Start by cutting a 6" diameter hole in the 18-gallon tote container to act as an entrance. Adding an exit hole on the opposite side is optional. If you plan on making multiple shelters please make some with both an entrance and an exit. Always cut away from your body.
2. Insert the Styrofoam cooler and cut a hole matching the 6" hole in the tote. Add the lid of your Styrofoam cooler to the top.
3. Add the lid of your tote back on the shelter.
4. Smooth over any rough edges created by cutting with strong weatherproof tape or by sanding them down.

Before use, BCSPCA staff will add straw for extra insulation.

Credit: <https://www.cleanitsupply.com/t/roughneck-homes.aspx?medium=erm>

# Outdoor Shelters for Community Cats

## Option 2, Part 1

### Supplies Needed:

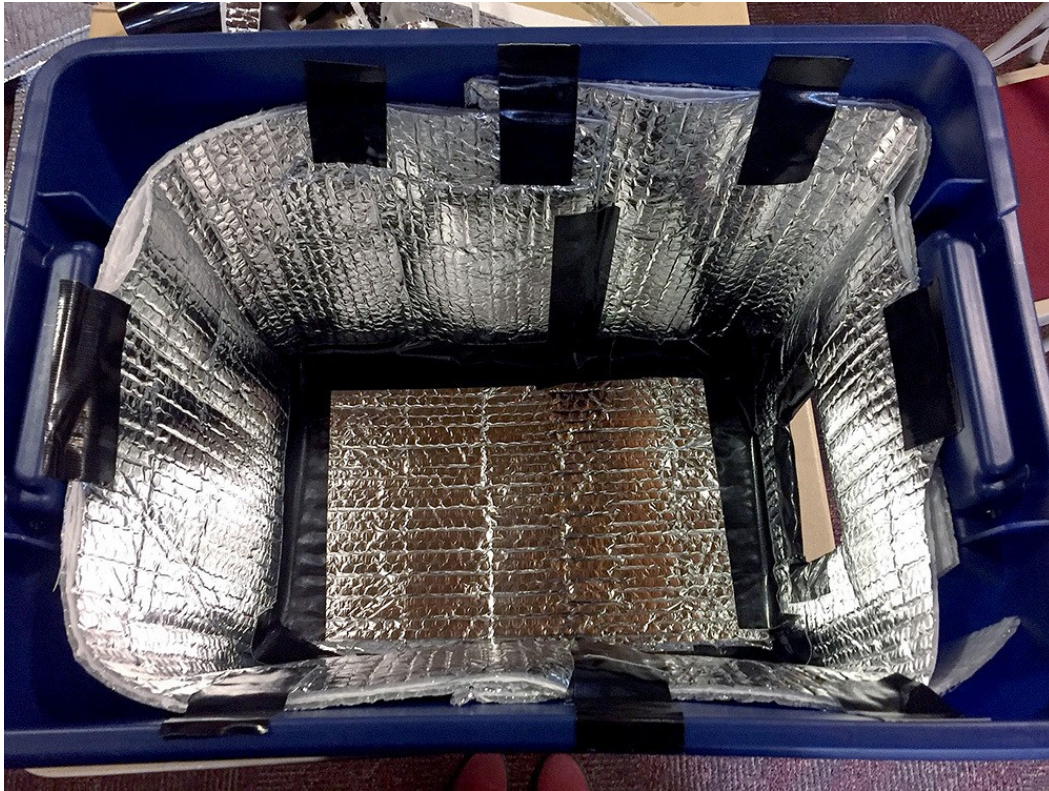
- Rubbermaid-style storage container with fitting lid (18 gallon or larger - use dark, earth-tone colors)
- 1 roll Reflectix Insulation (found at Home Depot, etc.)
- 1 sheet Foam Board
- 1 Roll Gorilla tape
- 1 box-cutter
- 1 pair scissors
- Sharpie pen
- Hairdryer



1. Using the Sharpie, trace a 6-inch square entrance on one of the storage container's long sides. The bottom line should be at least 4-5 inches from bottom of container.
2. Using the hairdryer, warm up the container where you traced the entrance. While warm and using the box-cutter, carefully cut out the 2 sides and bottom of traced entrance, creating a flap. (Don't worry: any cracks that may occur can be patched with Gorilla tape!) Fold flap upward to create space for cat to get under and inside. Some containers are too stiff to stay up, so in that case completely cut out flap and tape above the entrance. You can follow these steps to create an exit on the opposite side. This is optional, but if you plan to make multiple shelters, please make some with both an entrance and an exit.
3. Cut Foam Board to size of bottom of container and securely place inside.

# Outdoor Shelters for Community Cats

## Option 2, Part 2



4. Cut Reflectix insulation and completely line the inside of the storage container (bottom and all sides), as well as the inside of the lid. Use as much Gorilla tape as you need for insulation to be neatly secured to the container. Trim insulation on top so lid can fit securely.

5. Cut out insulation with box-cutters where entrance is located and place tape completely around edge of entrance, securing insulation to container all the way around. Also, snip off sharp corners then tape around the edges of the flap.

6. Place insulated lid on top.

Before use, BCSPCA staff will add straw for extra insulation.

Credit: <http://4fi8v2446i0sw2rpq2a3fg51-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/InstructionsInsulatedCatShelter.pdf>

# Outdoor Shelters for Community Cats

## Option 3

### Supplies Needed:

- Large plastic and Styrofoam cooler, about 120 quarts.
- Dremel tool with circular cutting attachment
- Keyhole Saw
- Weather proof tape, foam noodle



1. First drill a small hole with the Dremel tool where you will place your circular cutting attachment. Set attachment so the hole will be 6-7" large and about 4-5" from the bottom of the cooler.
2. Begin cutting. The Dremel tool will not be able to cut through the cooler completely so use your Keyhole Saw to follow the outline made by your Dremel tool. This should allow you to create an entrance for any community cats looking for warmth. You can follow these steps to create an exit on the opposite side. This is optional, but if you make multiple shelters, please make some with both an entrance and an exit.
3. Clean up any excess dust and debris and make sure there are no sharp part on the entrance to the cooler. Cover the opening with weatherproof tape or tape a foam noodle around the entrance.

Credit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3Pz5YAwqEA>

# Snuffle Mat

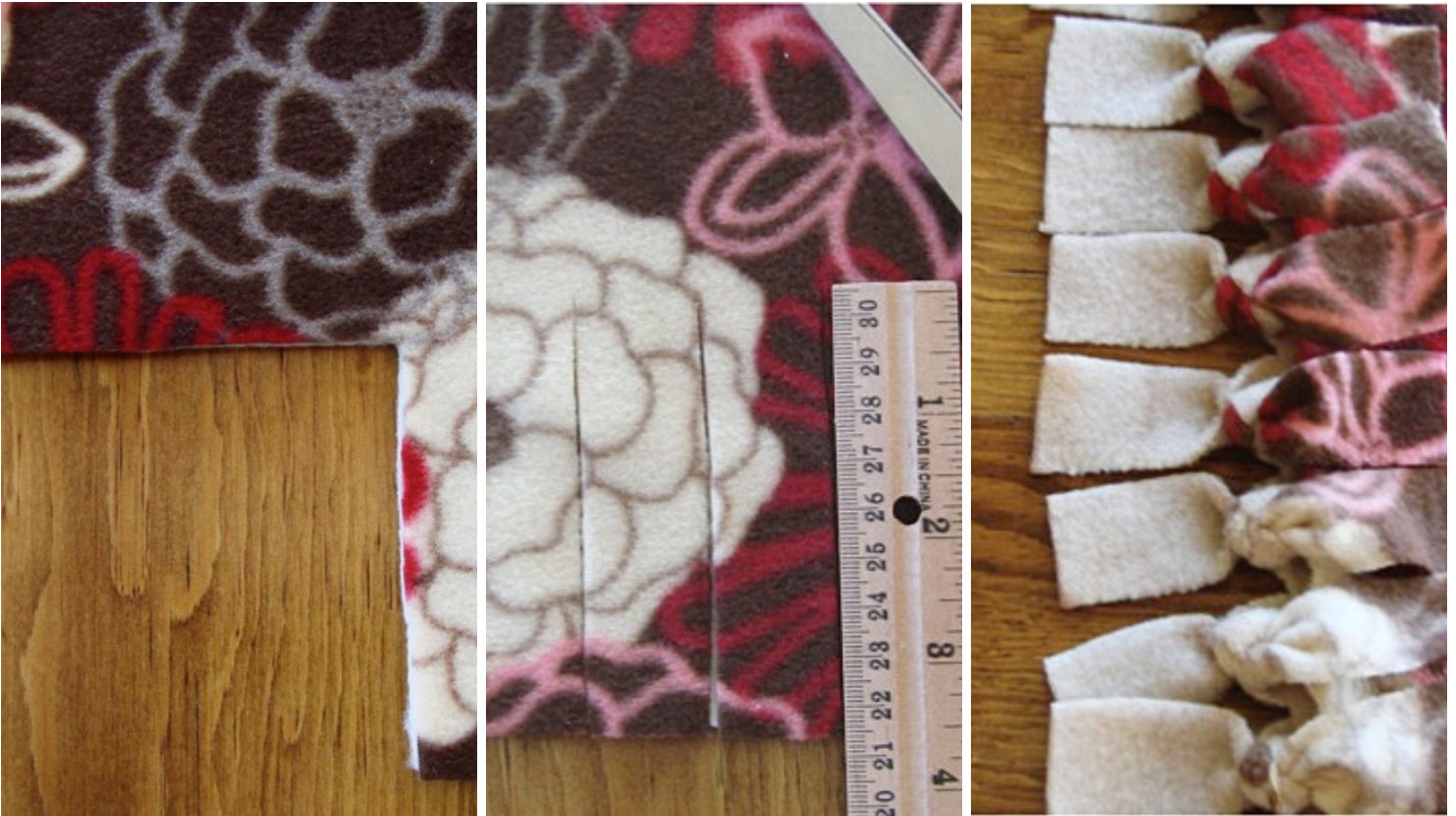


## Supplies Needed:

- Anti-Fatigue Mat or Doormat with holes
- 119 Strips of Fleece 10"x3" (1.5 yards total) - This may vary depending on the size and shape of your mat

1. Start by lacing the fleece through 2 adjacent holes. Tie the ends together. Lace the next strip of fleece into the second hole of the first strip. There should be two colors in every hole. Continue this until the end of the row.
2. Lace a strip vertically on each end on the row. Continue lacing the fleece horizontally until you get to the end of each row.
3. Follow this pattern until you get to the end of the mat and make sure all the ties are knotted. There you go your own DIY Snuffle Mat!

# No Sew Fleece Blankets



## Supplies Needed:

- Fabric to make two 24-25 inch squares (or bigger if desired)
  - Scissors
1. Line up both pieces of fleece with the 'dull' sides facing in towards each other. Then lay that down on a flat surface (floor, dining room table, etc.). Trim off any extra pieces, so it's all nice and even, then carefully smooth out any bumps.
  2. Cut a 4" x 4" square from each of the four corners. Cut each fringe about 1" wide, and 4" long. Once you've completed the cutting, it's time to start tying those knots! Feel free to use any knot style you like but be sure to double knot.

Credit: <https://thefrugalgirls.com/2011/12/no-sew-fleece-blanket.html>

# Fancy Hay Feeder Tube



## Supplies Needed:

- Paper Towel Tube, clean of adhesive
- Scissors

Using the scissors, cut diamond shapes by making a triangle shaped snip. Each cut should be about half an inch. You will have to flatten the tube slightly to do this. Continue in an alternating pattern along the length of the tube.

Our staff and volunteers will fill the tube with timothy hay so that it pokes out of each hole. This fun feeder will provide lots of mental stimulation for our smalls!

If using for your own pets, try making ones with smaller cuts each time to provide more of a challenge.

Credit: <https://exoticanimalsupplies.com/diy-toilet-paper-roll-toys-small-pets/>

# Ultimate Shredder Tube



## Supplies Needed:

- 4 Toilet paper rolls, clean of adhesive
1. Take 3 of the tubes and flatten them lengthwise. Then fold or roll them into thirds.
  2. Insert the rolled tubes into the other tubes.

Our staff and volunteers will push treats and/or pellets into the folds for a fun puzzle our smalls can enjoy ripping up and playing with to get a treat!

Credit: <https://exoticanimalsupplies.com/diy-toilet-paper-roll-toys-small-pets/>