AT HOME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our instructional packet of volunteer opportunities for folks at home and those under 16 is designed to empower people to make a difference in the lives of our furry friends at the animal shelter!

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ANDERSON HUMANE
PUPSICLES

These are great enrichment experience for our pups AND a great way for them to cool off.

SUPPLIES

- Paper cup or mold
- A Leash (optional, great way to hang them for an extra challenge)
- A liquid
  - Water or
  - Bone broth
- Food! We want to keep it light and refreshing! (something different than what they get on the regular)
- All safe foods are an option but some great are:
  - Pumpkin puree
  - Unsweetened applesauce
  - Nonfat greek yogurt
  - Peanut butter
  - Blueberries
  - Sweet potato
  - Apples
  - Bananas
  - Cranberries
  - Carrots
  - Long-lasting chew (optional)

STEPS

Step 1: Put ingredients in paper cup or mold.
Step 2: If you'd like to add a challenge, add a leash!
Step 3: Freeze!
Step 4: Once frozen solid, write included ingredients on outside of paper cup*. If pupsicles are made using molds, please write on ziploc bag.

*Some pups have dietary restrictions!
Step 4: Once they're ready, deliver to one of our locations!

Note: Please drop off in batches of 10-15, we don't have a lot of freezer space!
HOT DOG SQUAD

Our pups consider hotdog a “High Value” treat! We will provide you with the hot dogs and ziploc bags. Then you can cut them into bite size pieces for our dogs to enjoy!

**STEPS**

**Step 1:** Cut the hot dog into 4 strips lengthwise.

**Step 2:** Cut the 4 strips into bite-size pieces.

**Step 3:** Repeat! Please put 2 hot dogs in one Ziploc bag! Then deliver to our one of our shelters.
SNUFFLE MAT

These are great enrichment experience for our pups, they get to put their amazing nose to work!

SUPPLIES
- One plastic sink mat
- Fleece/Felt, cut into strips that are \( \text{”-1” wide and 6”-7” long.} \)
  - It’s better if they aren’t perfectly cut; they should vary in width/length! It could take 250-275 strips to make one mat.

TIPS
- If you start with a fleece throw be sure to avoid the stitched edges.
- Be sure the material is laundered before you begin.

STEPS

Step 1: Begin to knot

Take one strip and push an end through the hole in the top left corner of the sink mat and then take the other end and push it through the hole next to the first one. Flip the mat over and tie the strip once. Just one knot; no need to double knot it.

Take a second strip and push it through the second hole alongside the strip already there. Then take the other end of that strip and push it through the third hole. Turn over the mat and knot that strip. Continue until you finish one length of the rubber mat. Repeat on the second row of holes.

Step 2: Step Three: Two rows tied, time to switch the direction!

When you have two rows done, then take a strip of fleece and push it through the first hole in the first row. Then take the other end and push it through the first hole in the second row. Turn over the rubber mat and knot it. This strip is at right angles to the first two rows. Continue between the first and second rows until completed. Repeat Steps Two and Three for the rest of the mat.
Step 3: Check your work!

When you’re done, flip the mat over and take a good look at the bottom to see if there are any empty holes or missed cross strips. Fill in those spots and then turn the mat over, loose strip side up, fluff up the strips until they are standing up… and Voila!

The Snuffle mat is ready for a dog or cat to enjoy as they sniff and search for Hidden Treasure (treats)!
STUFFED SOCK FISH

Our cats LOVE these toys!

SUPPLIES
- Girls or Boys Crew Socks (size Small) Packing paper
- Catnip
- Yarn (optional)

STEPS
Step 1: Stuff the sock from toe to heel with crumpled packing paper (the crinklier, the better!)
Step 2: Sprinkle ½ tsp of catnip in the sock, shake to disperse around the paper
Step 3: Knot the sock at the base of the stuffed area
Optional
Step 4: Use yarn to sew an “X” for an eye on each sock

FLEECE BRAID

Our cats LOVE these toys!

SUPPLIES
- Catnip
- Fleece- can be an old (but clean!) fleece blanket or purchased from craft stores
- Scissors

STEPS
Step 1: Cut out three 8” long strips of fleece.
Step 2: Braid the three pieces together and knot at each end.
Step 3: Stuff catnip between the trips of braided fleece.
T-SHIRT DOG TOYS

Our pups will be able to tell these toys were made with love!

SUPPLIES

- 2 or more old t-shirts
- Scissors

TIPS

- It works best if the material is pulled as tightly as possible when being made - that way we can wash and reuse the toy!

STEPS

Step 1: Cut shirts into strips approximately 20 inches long and one to two inches wide. You will need 12 strips per pull toy.

Step 2: After cutting the strips, lay them out in alternating colors and tie and knot in the top. Be sure to pull this knot as tight as possible.

Step 3: Separate the strips into three groups of four strips and begin braiding. Once again you will want to make this braid as tight as possible so your dog can’t easily unravel it.

Step 4: Once you’ve gotten approximately 10 inches braided, you will want to gather the strips and tie into another knot. Tie the knot as tight as possible.
WILDLIFE ENRICHMENT

Our wildlife patients will love this moment of fun!

SUPPLIES

- Compostable, recyclable materials
- Unsalted nuts or seeds
- Nature!

STEPS

Step 1: Gather paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, Kleenex boxes, cardboard egg cartons, or anything compostable.

Step 2: Fill it with items from the forest preserve like twigs, grass, hay, and leaves.

Step 3: Mix it with some seeds or an unsalted nut and stuff the containers full.

Step 4: Wildlife will forage through the box to promote their natural behaviors and keep them very happy.
OLFACTORY / TACTILE ENRICHMENT: NATURE BOX
These boxes provide enrichment for an animal in rehabilitation, targeted for release!

The purpose of this enrichment is to provide each animal with a supply of natural materials that the animal does not ordinarily have access to. Animals can explore the scents or use for nesting material. Can also tuck in food items to promote foraging. All items must be checked for non-toxicity!

**SUPPLIES**
- Shoe boxes (packaging tape / labels removed) or 5-gallon buckets
- Nature items collected from different properties
  - Leaves
  - Twigs
  - Bark
  - Grasses
  - Flowers
  - Dandelions
  - Lichen
  - Moss
  - Small rocks

**STEPS**

Step 1: Gather items from nature.

Step 2: Fill shoe box or 5-gallon bucket with nature items.

Step 3: Please bring in your own box of nature, our wildlife team will identify and research each item to confirm non-toxic for animals prior to delivery

Step 4: Deliver either a shoebox full of nature items, or dump a 5-gallon bucket full of nature items in a neat pile. One box or pile per subject animal, or as appropriate for enclosure.

Step 5: Wildlife will forage through the items to promote their natural behaviors and keep them very happy.
ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT: SUBSTRATES
These boxes provide enrichment for an animal in rehabilitation, targeted for release!

The purpose of this enrichment is to provide each animal with a supply of natural substrate that they may not otherwise have access to in their enclosure. For example: if there is plenty of natural grass in an enclosure, we bring in mulch or dry leaves. But if there are plenty of dry leaves or mulch, we bring in fresh grass or fresh leaves. If we use straw for bedding, we bring in shavings, etc.

SUPPLIES
- Nature items collected from different properties
  - Twigs
  - Leaf litter
  - Mulch
  - Fresh grass
  - Wood shavings

STEPS
Step 1: Gather items from nature.

Step 2: Place in a pile on the ground or other surface that will encourage the subject to sniff, roll, etc. Can hide food items

Step 3: Wildlife will forage through the items to promote their natural behaviors and keep them very happy.
FUNDRAISING

Every dollar and every item raised helps animals in need!

Some of our industrious younger volunteers like host a fundraiser to get monetary donations for our dogs and cats! Below are some ideas. Donations drives for items like Kongs, toys or bath towels are always greatly appreciated!

- GARAGE SALE
- PENNY DRIVE
- CAR WASH
- LEMONADE STAND
- LAWN CARE
- SELL BAKED GOODS
- SELL CRAFTS
- DONATION DRIVE