

## Making Shelter Pet Beds

Shelter animals are in a traumatic situation just as the children we make quilts for.

A comfortable bed can make the animals situation a little less stressful.

Animal rescue workers have shared with me the importance of not only comfort for the animals but also safety. Dogs in a shelter environment can act out stress by chewing or ripping their bed apart. **It is important for the animals safety that all the contents of the bed are non toxic and small in size.** Please don't stuff beds with non fabric items or materials made of plastic, rubber or nylon. Large pieces of fabric & batting can get stuck in the digestive system resulting in surgery and/or death. Pieces 2 inches or smaller are less likely to cause injury.

### **The Cover-**

1. Use a durable non toxic fabric for the outside cover. Decorator and denim are perfect examples of durable and non toxic.
2. Cover must not have any embellishment that an animal may pull off and possible swallow, such as buttons, rickrack, lace, tassels, loose threads, ect.
3. Any size pet bed is acceptable from large to small, shelter animals come in all sizes. For example 12"x18" for a cat or small dog, up to 36"x 54" for an extra large dog. rectangle shapes are more usable in a shelter situation.

### **Unacceptable Stuffing Materials-**

1. No paper products, such as fusible backed paper, paper towels, tissues, cardboard.
2. No threads or trims of any kind, such as rickrack, bias tape, and laces.
3. No pins, needles, staples, tape, ect .
4. No trash.
5. No elastic or rubber bands.

### **Stuffing Materials-**

1. Any washable fabric is acceptable.
2. Batting

A mix of fabric and batting makes the perfect stuffing. It makes a softer, more comfortable bed for the animal, is light weight for the humans handling it, and can be washed in a washing machine.

For a great tutorial visit this link:

<https://lovebugstudios.com/how-to-make-a-dog-bed-for-an-animal-shelter/>