

# Animal Shelter Support

## Tips for Success



### Get Organized

**Find a partner.** Choose a local Humane Society or animal shelter for the handmade dog toys and/or donation items. Unless you have predetermined the items you want to collect, work with them to determine what needs you can address with your project. A list of suggested items is included.

**Make it easy to get involved.** Provide boxes for donations. Offer the option of giving items, cash, or check. Identify drop-off sites. Consider offering more than one site if your company is large or has multiple locations. Allow people to choose between donating shelter items and participating in the DIY dog toy project (of course, they can always do both!).

### Communicate Clearly

**Educate everyone about the issue you are addressing and its impact in the community.** Thanks to local shelters, each year hundreds of animals are removed from cruel and unhealthy environments, and thousands are adopted into loving homes. In order to put as many funds into staff and care, shelters are grateful for food, toy, and miscellaneous donations. Understanding the need will motivate people to participate.

**Set a goal.** If this is the first collection you are holding, pick a goal that is challenging, yet achievable. If you have held previous donation drives, consider increasing your goal this year. Be sure to post information about the collection in a prominent location and report daily contributions towards reaching the goal.

**Pick a catchy slogan & create a flyer.**

Slogan Examples:

- “Puppy Presents”
- “Pet Pals”
- “Donations for Doggies”
- “Favors for Fido”
- “Kitty Collection”
- “Presents for Pets!”

**Thank your donors.** Communicate final results and express thanks to participants - in employee newsletters, or on your intranet or website.

### Provide Incentives

**Organize contests.** Friendly competitions can be arranged between different departments at your organization. Offer prizes to the team that brings in the most donations or makes the most dog toys.



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## DIY Dog Toys



### Needed Supplies:

- Old T-Shirt(s)
  - Preferably 2-3 in multiple colors
- Scissors

### STEP 1: Prep the T-Shirt.

Start by 'disassembling' the t-shirt. Cut off the sleeves and square it off by cutting a straight line beneath the shoulders & collar. Cut down both sides.



### STEP 2: Cut T-Shirt into Strips.

Cut strips 1" thick. Strips can either be cut horizontally or vertically; cutting vertically will offer longer strips and allow for a thicker toy. If using multiple shirts, you will have enough fabric to make multiple toys.

### STEP 3: Braid the Strips

Take the bundle of strips and tie a tight knot at one end. Separate the strips into three groups and braid them. Stop braiding to leave about a 4" tail and tie another knot.

### Step 4: Give it to a Deserving Pup!

Now that the toy is complete, it is a perfect gift for a dog currently placed in shelter. These toys are easy to make and washable!



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## *Suggested Collection Items*



### **Food:**

- Soft training treats or jerky treats
- Rawhides/Nylabones/Smokey Bones
- Dry dog food
- Hill's Prescription Diet I/D & A/D canned food
- Dry & canned cat food
- Oxbow rabbit food

### **Care & Training:**

- Dog bed
- Flat nylon collars
- Gentle Leader collars
- Front-hooking dog harness
- DAP collars
- Large Kongs
- Washable toys
- Scratching pads
- Scoopable, unscented litter
- Litter pans
- Sponges
- Trash bags
- Disinfecting wipes

Questions? Email [TheVolunteerCenter@hwmuw.org](mailto:TheVolunteerCenter@hwmuw.org)

