

COMMUNITY PROJECT TOOLKIT



Ways the Community Can Help THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES & ADOPTION CENTER

1. Help **spread the word** about the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC) throughout the community by sharing our promotional flyers and information cards to stores and ask if they can be displayed and update them regularly.
2. **Become A Foster Home.** This is an opportunity for parents that want to introduce animal care to their children. We realize this is not always possible for all families but if it is, it is a great value to the children! The parents would have to complete a limited background check and fill out all paperwork, but the kids could help with the responsibility. This is a great way to have people foster the animals, and get them out of the shelter environment. We provide the supplies and veterinary care during their time in foster. For more information, visit our [website](#).
3. Help **promote MCASAC** and our homeless animals by regularly sharing our posts on Social Media. We are on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).
4. **Make a presentation** at your school, community group, organization, etc. about Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center
5. **Bake Sale/Lemonade Stand/Car Wash/Coin Drive.** MCASAC can accept donations on behalf of the animals in our care. Be creative! These ideas can be used for individual volunteers or groups. You can do this right in your own yard, or consider doing it at a sports event, school, or any other community area. Just make sure you get permission!



6. **Hold a Wish List Drive.** Find out what supplies are needed by adoption center and hold a wish list drive to collect those items. Advertise at your school (with permission) or in your neighborhood and find a designated area to collect items. Get a few representatives to take the supplies to adoption center and see the animals who will benefit from your hard work. You can also do specific drives such as a used towel drive or toy drive.
7. **Kids! Hold an animal-themed birthday party!** Find a [location](#) that hosts parties or [hold a party at home](#) with fun animal-themed activities. Collect items off of the wishlist from guests or make hand-crafted cat or dog toys! (See suggested list of items)
8. **Report.** [Call](#) MCASAC if you see any animal in distress. Our field services officers respond to hundreds of reports of cruelty and neglect each year. A simple call can make a huge difference in the lives of animals.
9. **Young people!** Animals don't have a voice to let people know when they are in pain, sad, frustrated or scared. If you'd like to be a voice for animals, gather some friends together to talk about forming a **MCASAC School Club**.
10. **Come up with your own idea!**

Email Community Outreach Coordinator, Katherine Zenzano at Katherine.zenzano@montgomerycountymd.gov with any questions.



WISHLIST

To care for the animals served by the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, the shelter needs many supplies. They are used to keep our animals fed, comfortable and entertained while they are in our care. You, your family, school, youth group or troop might consider having a collection drive to gather wish list items for our homeless pets. All donations can be dropped off during regular shelter hours or shipped (see below for hours and address). We also have an [Amazon](#) wishlist if you prefer to send gifts that way! Thank you!

DOGS

- Long-lasting chews – e.g., Bully Sticks, Pig Ears, etc. (USA manufactured, only; no rawhides, please)
- KONG toys and KONG Wobblers – all sizes
- Plush, Squeaky Toys and Rope Bones
- Easy Cheese (New, Unopened)
- Adaptil spray
- Waste bags, a.k.a., “poop bags”

CATS

- Kitty KONG and KONG Cat Wobbler Toys
- Canned food such as Friskies and Fancy Feast
- *Temptations* cat treats
- Canned Chicken or Tuna (in water)
- Cat toys (plastic balls, crinkle toys, small plush, etc.)
- Feliway spray bottles and diffusers
- Catnip

SMALL ANIMALS & EXOTICS

- PetSafe SlimCat Interactive Feeder
- Willow, Straw and/or Wood Toys
- Chewable or machine washable/dishwasher-safe rabbit toys
- Small animal treats, preferably low sugar options like seeds and dried fruit**
- All sizes of bird toys and all sizes of Manzanita wood, rope or sisal perches
- Ferret hammocks and sleep sacks
- Millet sprays for birds

We are always in need of:

- Newspaper
- Towels
- Blankets
- Hot Dogs
- Bath mats/rugs

We regretfully CANNOT accept:

- Opened bags of food
- Homemade Treats
- Sheets
- Sofa cushions
- Pillows
- Medications

At - Home Activities

Thank you for wanting to help the animals at the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC). We have listed some project ideas that you might try at home.

CRINKLE BOTTLES (FOR DOGS)

What better than a dog toy that makes noise?! Crinkly bottles provide lots of entertainment for our shelter dogs, allowing them to

Supplies:

- Water bottles
- Tube socks
- Non Toxic markers

- Collect multiple empty, clean water bottles without their lids.
- Collect multiple new tube/crew socks or unstained, unholy gently used socks.
- Decorate socks as desired using permanent non-toxic markers.
- Stuff one water bottle into each sock.
- Do not add dog food or treats, as we don't want our dogs accidentally ingesting the socks or bottle bits.

TENNIS BALL DUMBELLS (FOR DOGS)

Supplies:

- Tube socks
- Tennis balls

- Collect multiple new tube/crew socks or unstained, unholy gently used socks.
- Collect multiple tennis balls.
- Stuff a ball into a sock, tie a knot as close as to the ball as possible. Stuff another ball into same sock, and tie another knot.
- Decorate socks as desired using permanent non - toxic markers.

WOODEN DOWEL KITTYWANDS

Our kitties benefit from toys, and toys help to engage adopters! Kitty wands provide enrichment that our kitties need while in the shelter.

Supplies:

- Wooden dowels
- Polar fleece

- Duct tape or electrical tape
 - Wooden dowel's can be purchased from any craft store (you can also buy pre - cut dowels a good place to look is at Michael's, JoAnns. Or Walmart). The best size is at least 5/16" round (any smaller and they will break too easily).
 - If you buy 36" long dowels, you can cut them into three even pieces, about 12" long.
 - Take 1 - 3 strips of Polar fleece, about an inch in diameter, and about a foot long once stretched. Please do not use any more than three strips of Polar fleece.
 - Take about 6 inches of duct tape or electrical tape and secure the Polar fleece strips to the end of one dowel. Duct and electrical tape now comes in many different colors and patterns, but plain works just fine. Be sure to begin the tape on the wood, and tighten as you go to secure the Polar fleece strips.
 - Please do not use ribbon or string in place of Polar fleece. Sometimes our kitties will sometimes ingest these products which is not safe.



CATNIP HAPPY SOCKS and KICKAROO SOCKS (FOR CATS)

Here is a link to help you get started. <http://ohappysock.blogspot.com/>

Supplies:

- Socks
 - Cat nip
 - Toilet paper tubes
 - Poly fill Stuffing
- Use new white tube/crew socks (old, un-hole, un-stained socks will also work).
 - Use non-toxic, permanent markers to decorate the socks.
 - Fill decorated socks with 2 to 3 teaspoons of catnip.

- To transform a catnip happy sock into a Kickaroo sock, add polyfil or similar stuffing or a toilet paper tube filled with crumpled newspaper before knotting.
- <http://www.kongcompany.com/products/cats/cat-kickaroo/>
- Tie the sock in a knot to close.
- Please do not attach ribbon, string, or jingle bells as these items can be ingested.



BABY CATNIP HAPPY SOCKS (FOR CATS)

- Use new white baby socks (old, un-hole, un-stained baby socks will also work).
- Use non-toxic, permanent markers to decorate the socks, if they are not already patterned.
- Fill with poly - fil stuffing.
- Add 2 to 3 teaspoons of catnip.
- Sew or hot glue gun shut

CAT TUBES

Supplies:

- Toilet paper rolls – paper towel tubes.
 - Nontoxic permanent markers
 - Newspaper or phone books
- Collect toilet paper tubes/paper towel tubes.
 - Use non - toxic, permanent markers to decorate the tubes.
 - Shred newspaper into long rows. Holding a section of newspaper with the fold face - up/open edge face - down and tearing straight down works for a clean shred. Shreds should be about ¼ inch wide or so. You may also shred phone books.
 - Stuff tubes with shredded newspapers or shredded phonebook until the tube is full.
 - Paper should dangle from both ends.

PING PONG BALL DECORATING (FOR CATS & KITTENS)

Supplies:

- Ping pong balls
- Nontoxic markers
 - Cats and kittens love ping pong balls to play with, and they are so easy for us to disinfect!
 - Collect ping pong balls.
 - Decorate!
 - You can be as creative as you would like.
 - Please use permanent, non - toxic markers (Sharpie markers are non - toxic and come in many colors).

KURANDA CAT BED COVERS (FOR CATS)

Supplies:

- t-shirts
- non-toxic markers
 - Our new Kuranda cat beds are great but they are in need of a soft covering.
 - To make cat bed covers, use a new or gently used white/plain colored t-shirt (Men's size medium or large).
 - Décor ate the shirt(s) with Sharpies (make sure to put a piece of cardboard in between the shirt as to not get sharpie on your table).
 - Once you have finished decorating the shirt, you are done!

KITTY "BAT" CAVES

- Collect reusable grocery bags and newspaper.
- Line the inside of a bag on all sides with a few sheets of newspaper.
- Insert second bag to nest on top of the paper in the first bag.
- Cut all handles in half.
- Tie handle of outer bag to corresponding handle of inner bag to keep bags together.
- Bags should still open, as one, so kitty can climb in and play.

KITTY BARBELLS

- Cut dowels purchased at a hardware store into 3-4 inch pieces.
- Using a standard battery operated drill, make a hole in each cork slightly smaller than the dowel.
- To finish 'em off, no glue needed—just pound two corks onto each dowel and presto, the barbells are ready to give to your shelter cats for some, er, heavy lifting.



T-SHIRT TENTS (FOR CATS)

Supplies:

- One medium T-shirt
 - One 15- by 15-inch piece of cardboard
 - Two wire hangers
 - Tape
 - Safety pins
 - Wire cutters or pliers
- Cut the hooks off both hangers and shape the wires into two arcs
 - Poke a hole in each corner of your piece of cardboard
 - Tape the wire arcs together at their centers to form a tent-like frame
 - Poke the four ends of the hanger frame down through the four holes in your piece of cardboard. Bend the wire ends under and tape them down
 - Pull the shirt over the tent frame and position it so the neck hole is in the front middle—that will be kitty's door!

FLEECE BLANKETS (FOR CATS OR DOGS)

- <https://snapguide.com/guides/make-a-no-sew-fleece-blanket-wout-bulky-knots/>
- Fold up the excess from the bottom of the shirt and tighten it up so the neck hole is taut, and pin the bottom in place. Then pull the sleeves tight and pin them in place.

For helpful step-by-step photos of this project, [visit Instructables.com](https://www.instructables.com/).

FLEECE TUGBRAIDS (FOR DOGS OR CATS)

Supplies:

- Polar fleece
- Cat nip
 - Collect polar fleece
 - You can buy yards at any fabric store, use old polar fleece blankets, or even Snuggies!
 - For larger dogs, cut three 1 - 2" x 36" strips.
 - For small dogs, cut 1" x 12" strips.
 - For cats or bunnies, cut three ½" x 8" strips.
 - Knot top end, braid, then knot bottom end.
 - Keep tightening the braid as you go!



You can make them specifically for cats by “charging” them with catnip. Once braided, tuck them into any bag or container with catnip. You can also push strips of newspaper into the braid for our cats and rabbits to play with.

You can make various sizes for dogs. The dimensions above are general, but since we will need toys for all breeds of dogs, Chihuahua to Great Dane, you can make “minis” or “jumbos” or “extra thin” or “super thick.”

BUNNY HABITATS

Supplies:

- Corrugated cardboard boxes
 - Collect clean corrugated cardboard boxes approximately 18" long x12" high x 12" deep. A few inches smaller or larger will be fine as we have many different sized rabbits.
 - Cut windows and doors to make the hiding houses more elaborate.
 - Use non - toxic permanent marker to decorate the outside of the box. You can also use non - toxic glue and attach paper cut outs to the sides.
 - Do not use packing tape to attach paper decorations.
 - Do not use stapled boxes.

TOUR INFORMATION AND REQUEST FORM

Some groups choose to take a guided tour of the facility to drop off their donations and to cap off their efforts if they have made or collected items for the shelter animals. We offer guided tours of the Adoption Center to groups during our operational hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday...12 p.m. to 7 p.m. (last tour scheduled for 6 p.m.)
 Saturday and Sunday.....12 p.m. to 5 p.m. (last tour scheduled for 4 p.m.)
 Closed on Wednesdays and major holidays

In our tours, groups have the opportunity to learn about the services the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center offers and also see the animals who are waiting for their forever families. Tours typically last about 40-45 minutes. Because of safety and health concerns, we do not offer direct contact with our animals.

Some groups choose to support our shelter animals by collecting items from our wish-list. For a list of items that your group can make or our wish-list, please visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/about/ourfacility.html.

Date of Today:		
Name or Person Requesting Tour:		
Group/Organization Name:		
Type of Group:		
Age of Tour Attendees:		
Number of Attendees:		
Number of Chaperones: <small>We request 1 adult per 5-10 children</small>		
Requested Tour Days/Times:	First Choice:	Second Choice:
Questions, Comments:	Email:	Phone(s)

NOTE: Please do not request to have tour within one week of request submission. We rely on volunteer assistance to give tours. Scheduling can take up to 7 days. We appreciate your patience!

**Please print, scan (or take legible Smartphone photo) and return this form to our
 Community Outreach Coordinator at Katherine.zenzano@montgomerycountymd.gov**

OR

**Montgomery County Animal Service and Adoption Center
 c/o Katherine Zenzano
 7315 Muncaster Mill Road
 Derwood, MD 20855**