



## SERVICE PROJECTS

For students who need a short-term project to fulfill service hour requirements for school, church, scouts or other, we recommend the projects listed below.

Students should always check first to see if the project will be accepted by the organization requiring the service hours.

Students must keep track of the hours (dates and times) that are spent on the project.

Students can bring the item, donation or project to the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL) located at 1729 Willey Avenue Cleveland, OH 44113 (216-771-4616 or [www.clevelandapl.org](http://www.clevelandapl.org)) during regular adoption hours.

At that time, the student will receive an Offsite Service Hours and Verification form to complete that may be used to verify that the service work was performed to benefit the Cleveland APL.

**IMPORTANT!** *Shelter volunteers must go through a regimented training process and make a long-term commitment; therefore, we cannot accommodate students wishing to work in the shelter for student service projects. In addition, due to the large number of students in need of service hours, we are unable to accommodate them onsite.*

**CURTAILMENTS:** Make cage curtains or “curtailments” to help reduce stress for animals at our shelter. Attached is a link to the UC Davis Shelter Medicine instructions.

<http://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/how-to-make-partial-cage-covers-aka-curtailments>





**HOT (RICE) SOCKS:** Use new white tube or crew socks. Use non-toxic, permanent markers to decorate the socks. Fill 2/3 of your decorated sock with dry, uncooked rice. Tie the sock in a knot to close. Rice socks serve as a source of heat and comfort for our animals.

**FLEECE BLANKETS:** Make fleece (soft, warm, washes easily, dries quickly) blankets to help provide comfort for animals at our shelter. Both dogs and cats love them, and they can be made in various sizes for all to enjoy. Cut two 18" (or whatever size best) squares of fleece fabric. Be sure the fabric does not include the rough selvage edge. (This is the side of fleece that is machine finished). Make sure that your cut sides are relatively straight, but they don't have to be perfect. Lay your fleece *wrong* sides together, with edges matching up. (Often times with fleece, it's hard to tell which side is the wrong side and it often doesn't matter which side you use as the front or back.) Cut a 3x3" square (or 4x4" square for a longer fringe) out of each corner (through both layers of fleece) and discard. Cut 3" (or 4") into fleece at 1" intervals around all four sides (diagram below). Tie overhand knots close to blanket edge by using one strip from the front and one strip from the back to create finished fringe edge. Repeat around all four sides. Tie the last fringe of each side with the last fringe on the perpendicular side (of opposite fabric).



**TUGBRAIDS:** Collect fleece. You can buy yards at any fabric store or use old fleece blankets. For larger dogs, cut three 1-2" x 36" strips. For small dogs, cut 1" x 12" strips. For cats or bunnies, cut three 1/2" 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."

**DOGGIE DUMBELLS:** 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.

**KITTYWANDS:** Our kitties benefit from toys, and toys help to engage adopters. Therefore, Kittywands were created. Purchase a wooden dowel from any craft store. Dowels that are at least 5/16" round and 12" long are best (any smaller and they will break too easily). Take 1-3 strips of fleece, about one inch in diameter, and about 12" long once stretched. Please do not use any more than three strips of fleece. Take about 6" of duct tape or electrical tape (any color will do fine) and secure the fleece strips to the end of one dowel. Be sure to begin the tape on the wood, and tighten as you go to secure the fleece strips.

Please do not use ribbon or string instead of fleece.



**PING PONG BALLS:** Our cats and kittens love to play with ping pong balls. They are also easy for us to clean and disinfect. Collect ping pong balls. Decorate. Our kitties don't mind if you go to extremes and decorate every inch with illustrations, patterns, words, or whatever, or if you simply sign your name on each one. Please use permanent, non-toxic markers like Sharpie markers.

**CATNIP KNOTS:** Cut fleece into rectangles (about 3" x 8" in length). Put a large pinch of catnip at the center of one of the long edges of the rectangle. Roll the catnip in the fleece and then tie the roll into a single knot. Our cats love to bat the knots around and enjoy the catnip smell.



**CRINKLE BOTTLES:** Collect multiple empty, clean water bottles without their lids. Lids/caps are a choking hazard. 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 then tie the end. Do not add dog food or treats, as we don't want our dogs accidentally ingesting the socks or bottle bits.



**CAT FLEECE OR FELT RING TOY:** Collect plastic milk rings from milk jugs. Use fleece or felt cut into strips (about 12-14 that are 5" in length work well). Tie the fleece or felt around the milk rings.

**PIPE CLEANER SWIRLS:** Collect or purchase a package of pipe cleaners. Take a pipe cleaner and a pen. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the pen to make an easy fun cat toy.



**CANNED WET FOOD DRIVE:** Hold a canned wet dog, puppy, cat, and kitten food for animals in foster care or project CARE clients.

**PET TOY DRIVE:** Hold a pet toy drive for the animals at our shelter.

**WISH LIST SUPPLY DONATION DRIVE:** Hold a donation drive and collect any of the items on our Wish List.

<https://clevelandapl.org/donate/our-wish-list/>

**COINS FOR CRITTERS:** Make decorated donation jars or cans asking for “coins for critters.” Use slogans on the jars or cans like Be the Change or Make it Count – Donate to the Cleveland APL! With permission from your teacher or principal, make this into a school contest to see which classroom can bring in the most money. On Monday, bring in pennies. On Tuesday, bring in nickels. On Wednesday, bring in dimes. On Thursday, bring in quarters. On Friday, bring in any spare change. The class with the most money collected could possibly win some kind of a treat. Again, ask your principal. Please note: all coins collected must be converted into a check made payable to the Cleveland Animal Protective League.

**BAKE SALE, LEMONADE STAND and/or CAR WASH:** Hold any of these separately or together to raise monies for our shelter. For creative ideas on bake sale items like dog paw print cookies or cat cupcakes, you may want to visit Pinterest for some fun ideas.



**BIRTHDAY PARTIES FOR PETS:** If you or one of your friends is having a birthday party, you could request that all of the “gifts” be for our shelter animals like dog and cat toys, treats, and more. You can gain other ideas by visiting our online Wish List.

**THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING CARDS:** Make homemade cards to tell new adopters how happy you are that they chose a shelter pet. Deliver them to our shelter and ask that they be given to new adopters.

**HOMEMADE DOG TREATS:** Make homemade dog treats for our dogs and bring them for our dogs. Please be sure to provide an ingredient listing and if the treats need to be refrigerated or frozen. Attached is a link for some recipe ideas.

<http://allrecipes.com/recipes/everyday-cooking/pet-food/pet-treats/>



**IMPORTANT!** Many of these projects may require the supervision and guidance of an adult for completion.