

It's great to hear how some Guides offer their services to the RSPCA by going along regularly to help clean out pens and cages, hose down exercise yards and even walk dogs

A slightly different way of giving service to this wonderful organisation has recently come to our attention...

Did you know some cats and kittens, even though they have a large area to live in, get bored? Imagine a kitten with nothing to play with or chase...no fun at all...just like you with no toys!

If your local RSPCA has this problem, maybe you could help!



Here are a few ideas -
you might think of more...

NOISY DANGLERS

Collect the containers from Kinder Surprise (or similar) chocolates. If there are no holes in the ends, carefully make some with a drill or skewer.

Thread some strong string through one end and tie it to a button or small washer inside (if the string is only knotted it may eventually slip through the hole)

Tie a clip or split ring to the other end of the string so it can be attached to the wire of a cage. Add a dab of glue to both knots to keep them firm.

Find some colourful feathers and push them into the other hole. Secure them on the inside with some plaster of paris or quite a lot of a really good glue like araldite. When that is dry, put a few grains of rice or a small bell inside the container, close it, and wrap some colourful tape around the join.

There...a good, serviceable toy to keep any kitten amused...and you it yourself!



Want to try something a little more ambitious?

SCRATCHING POST

You'll need:

- Timber (eg a 50cm length of 2 x 4)
- Flathead nails 3 x long cable ties
- Wood glue Jute rope
- 6 x wire fencing staples

Staple the cable ties across the widest part of the timber, at the top, bottom and mid-way down.

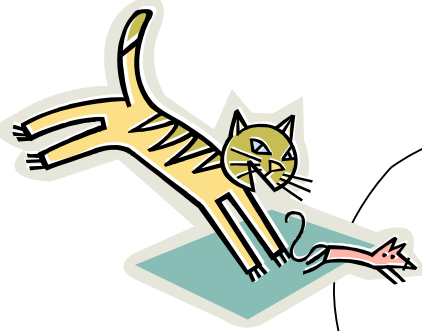
Glue, then nail the rope around the bottom of the timber, then continue winding upwards, making room for the cable ties to stick out, until the timber is covered. Glue, then nail the top row.

Alternatively, the timber could be covered with old carpet, but it's recommended that the carpet be inside-out so the backing is what the cats scratch on. (Can you think why?)

The cable ties will be used to attach the scratching

post to the wire cat cage.



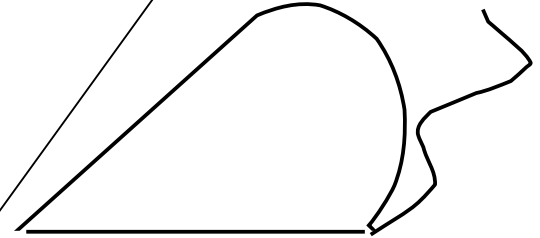


Cool Stuff
For Guides

Don't want to sew?
Use an old sock, add
some catnip then tie a
knot in the heel part,
leaving a 'tail'...easy!!

TOY MICE
Know someone who grows
catnip or catmint?
Ask if you can have some
and hang it away from the
sun to dry out.
Make some simple felt toy
mice and fill them with the
catnip.
Be sure to use small stitches
so cat's claws won't break
your thread. Add a wool
tail.

PATTERN FOR MOUSE
(enlarge if you wish)



ROLY-POLYS
Use a cardboard tube from foil, plastic
wrap, or toilet roll. Cut to about 10cm in
length. Cut out cardboard circles to fill
in the ends. Glue one in place, add a
little dry rice to the tube, then glue on the
other end. Cover with felt – sewn or
firmly glued on - starting with the ends
then wrapping another piece around the
'body' to neaten.

Keep in mind:
**FEATHERY, SHINY, NOISY,
DANGLY, STRONG, SAFE,
ROLLING**



Make a large colourful pom-pom

FUZZY CATERPILLARS
Using several colourful, furry
pipe cleaners (the fuzzier the
better!), twist the ends firmly
together for about 2 cm then
fold the long ends right back
over the short twisted one to
cover the sharp wire ends
Now wind the pipe cleaners
firmly around a pencil, forming a
tight coil
Finish by twisting the bottom
2cm together and folding it back
inside the coil

The following is fun, but you might need to check with
your RSPCA first to see if they have room...and if they
agree!

PLAY BOX
Use a Girl Guide biscuit box or one a little larger
Cut two or three holes in the sides and top. They could be
large enough for a cat to climb in and out, or just large
enough to look and reach into
Dangle a bell or some feathers inside – tie them with string
threaded through small holes in the top, and knot firmly
Glue or tape down the top of the box
Now decorate – but remember whatever
you use should be non-toxic. Maybe felt
flower shapes...or...???



What else can you think of? Could you use bottle caps, film containers,
plastic bottles, small tins (with no sharp edges)?
What about a 'wiffle' ball with some dry cat food inside (how will you get it in
there?)