

## Cushy Cat Mat – fitted for Idaho Humane Society kennels

- Time: Approximately 20 minutes per mat
- Cost: \$2 to \$3 per mat depending on cost of fleece and batting (look for sales)
- Skill Level: Basic sewing knowledge

Designed to fit into a cat kennel. This mat is easy to make, clean and the ultimate in shelter comfort.

### Materials (makes 3 mats):

- 1 yard of polar fleece (anti-pill) – preferably with cats or cat themed
- ½ yard of 1" polyester batting
- Thread that matches the main fleece color
- Pins
- Sewing Machine
- Scissors or rotary cutter & mat
- 21" x 14" section of newspaper if not using rotary cutter & mat

### Directions:

1. **Cut out pattern *if not using rotary cutter and mat*.** Take a piece of newspaper or other type of paper and cut to be a rectangle 21" x 14"
2. **Cut the fabric.** Cut as many 21" x 14" rectangle pieces as possible from the amount of fabric you are using (i.e. 1 yard) using a rotary cutter or mat or by pinning the pattern to the fleece. Each mat needs 21" x 14" rectangle pieces.
3. **Cut the batting.** Using the rotary cutter/mat or pattern, cut 1 piece from the 1" polyester batting that is ¼" less than the fleece along all sides.
4. **Sew fabric together.** Place two pieces of fleece on top of each other with the right sides of the fleece together. Using a 2.5 straight stitch length, sew around the edges using a ¼" seam allowance, **leaving a 5 to 6" section open** to insert the batting. IMPORTANT, trim all thread ends before next step.
5. **Turn the mat right side out.**
6. **Insert the batting.** Insert the batting through the open section left in step #4. Gently lay the batting inside the mat, making sure that it is smooth, free of wrinkles and reaches inside each corner.
7. **Sew mat shut and secure batting.** Fold under the edges of the opening, ensuring that the inside sections will be caught when topstitching the mat. Pin to hold into place while sewing the topstitching. Using a 2.5 straight stitch length and 3/8" seam allowance, topstitch the mat around the entire edge of the mat. The topstitching should catch the batting all the way around to hold it in place through repeated use and washings.
8. **Doublecheck opening is securely closed.** When pulling pins, of the open section, double-check that the 3/8 seam allowance has closed the open section completely/securely.
9. **Ensure there are no long thread ends or loose threads.** Threads are not good for cat digestive tracks and can cause the need for veterinary care.