

How to Make Your Own Dog Bed

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Do-it-yourself dog beds I've been making catnip cat pads for years to sell at pet shows and boutiques. About a year ago, I was approached about making dog beds, and added them to my product line. They have turned out to be a bestseller at the pet events I attend.

The beds are easy to make and easy to care for. To make them, you need: Fabric, preferably with a dog motif Polyester fiberfill (6 oz. or 8 oz.) Access to a sewing machine or ability to hand sew Thread

The beds can be cut to any size you need. I've included a photo showing different sizes that I make with different fabrics. I like using snuggle flannel, especially for winter, or a cotton print. Make sure whatever fabric you use is machine washable and safe to put into the dryer.

Dog-themed fabric Fold the fabric so the right sides face each other – it will almost look inside out. Cut one layer of the fiberfill the size of the folded fabric. Then sew them together, attaching the fiberfill as you sew. I leave an opening about 10 to 12 inches long in the middle of one side. After sewing, turn the bed right-side out through the opening. After you turn it, simply sew the opening closed.

In addition to selling the beds at pet events, I give them away to my best pet sitting clients. If you already have a dog bed, you can lay one of these on top of the regular bed. Then, when they get soiled or a little stinky, just throw them in the washer and dryer, and your doggie has a nice, fresh bed. Many of my clients put the beds right on the floor and their dogs love sleeping on them. The dogs seem to know that the beds are for them.

They can be sized to fit your dog's crate or carrier. Dogs appreciate having a soft padded blanket to sleep on. I have clients that also use them in their cars. They just place them on the car seat or in their cargo area and are ready to go with their pooch.

Have fun making your special pet a new bed! If you feel really ambitious, sew a few to share with your dog-loving friends. Happy sewing!

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