



Cage Comforter Project

December 2010 – Diane Rode Schneck

Make a cage comforter, and help NYC's homeless animals!

Shelter cats (and small dogs) need love too. Cage comforters are simple, small quilts placed in the cages of shelter animals. Not only do they make the cage a more comfortable place to be, but they increase the animal's chance of adoption. How? They reduce the stress animals feel when in a cage, and they allow potential adopters to see their potential pet in a more relaxed state.

If you can thread a needle, you can sew a cage comforter!

CAGE COMFORTERS SPECIFICATIONS:

Comforters can be made from any type of material except looped fabric like chenille or terry cloth that might get snagged in the animal's nails. They should be a finished size of 12" x 18", but this can vary slightly as long as they aren't smaller than that. The comforters can be stuffed with various types of material, but polyester batting works best because it dries quicker after laundering. All materials should be machine washable.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut the material to the right size – two pieces cut 13" x 19" allowing an extra inch around for seams.
2. Put wrong sides facing out (right sides together) and pin all around.
3. Sew around 3 sides, leaving one side open for the batting. Use a small running stitch or a back stitch for stability by hand, or machine sew.
4. Turn material right side out, and make sure corners are sharp.
5. Stuff with batting.
6. Sew across the bottom edge.
7. To finish, tack down in each corner and once in the middle so that the stuffing doesn't shift during laundering. You can also machine quilt them, or top stitch the edges.

You can also knit or crochet cage comforters as well. The design, stitching and colors don't matter, but the best yarn to use is 100% acrylic in a worsted weight. Denser designs work a little bit better – some people even use two strands of yarn together for a nice plushy blanket. I have patterns for both knit and crocheted blankets, if you're interested. Again, the size to aim for is around 12 x 18".

That's it! For questions, email me: **Diane Schneck** (BleuJello2@aol.com) I hope to be at every meeting to collect donations, or we can arrange an alternative. I will definitely be making a donation before the holidays. Thank you!