

Thank you so much for helping make toys for our dogs! We use some of these toys with the dogs when they are at the shelter and others go home with an adopted dog so they have a toy in their new home. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@jointanimalservices.org.

Towel Rope Toys for Dogs

Materials

Old bath towels, multiple colors
Scissors
Masking tape

Directions

Cut bath towels into approximately 3" strips, width wise (the length of the strip will be the length of the shorter end of the towel). (Once you cut about an inch into the towel, you should be able to rip each strip off of the towel.)

Take three strips (three different colors look nice) and tape one end of each strip to the table with the strips touching next to each other.

Braid the three strips together.

Tie a knot at the end. (You can tie the two outer strips in a knot over the middle strip.) Double knot it if possible.

Take the tape off of the other ends, and knot that part too.

Trim any strings off of the ends before giving to your favorite pooch.

From AnimalFriends

How to Weave a Strong Fleece Rope Dog Toy



By Rachel Passerini, SeasideQuilts.etsy.com

Materials and Tools:

3 1/4 yard pieces of different colored or patterned fleece
scissors or a rotary cutter
2 rubber bands

Steps:

1. Fold each piece of the fleece selvage to selvage to cut long strips (**figure A**). (**Tip:** Selvage is the end of the fabric with writing on it.)
2. Cut three 4" strips from the folded edge using scissors or a rotary cutter and a ruler (**figure B**). **Note:** A 4" strip width will give you a "medium-width" dog toy. If you want it smaller or larger adjust the strip width.
3. Unfold the fabric strips and stack one strip of each color/pattern together.
4. Wrap a rubber band around the edge of the fleece, about 5" from the end. Don't worry about cutting off the edges with selvage at this point (**figure C**).
5. Now braid the three strands together. **Tip:** The easiest way to get a tight braid is to hold the rubber band-wrapped edge between your knees, but you can also tape it or pin it to a solid work surface (**figure D**).
6. Make sure the braid is nice and tight so it's harder for the dog to get its teeth through. Make the braid about 20-27" long, leaving some unbraided fleece at the end. This gives room to tie knots (**figure E**).
7. Wrap the second rubber band on the end of the unbraided fleece.
8. Make a knot that falls in the intersection of the unbraided and braided section (where the rubber band is located). This keeps the braid tighter (**figure F**).
9. Cut the rubber band and pull the knot very tight. The tighter the knot the longer it will last for your dog.
10. Trim both unbraided ends of the bone so they're roughly the same length (**figure G**). The length of the ends is up to you. The rope made here is trimmed to 3".
11. Fringe the edges by cutting each end of the fleece into strips. (If you have a strong chewer you may want to skip this step.)

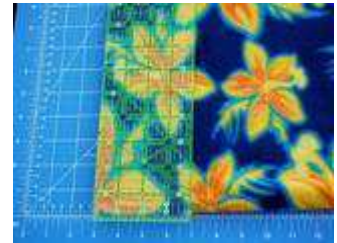


Figure A



Figure B

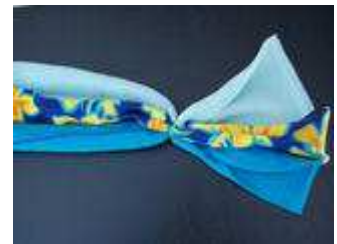


Figure C



Figure D



Figure E



Figure F



Figure G

TENNIS BALL TUG TOYS

DESCRIPTION:

Turn old, tennis balls into fun Tug-Toys for dogs.

GETTING STARTED:

You will need:

- Tennis balls
- Sharp knife and a cutting surface
- Rope or braided Rags
- Poking-stick

Procedure:

1. Collect old or un-needed tennis balls.
2. Wash the tennis balls with warm soapy water. Be sure to get out all the soap!
3. Allow the tennis balls to dry completely.
4. Use the knife to cut a hole in each side of the tennis ball.
5. Thread the rope or braided-rag-rope into the ball.
6. Tie knots in different places to make interesting tug toys.

HINTS:

- To get ideas for creative tug toys, check in a pet supply store or on-line shopping center. Tug toys can include from 1-4 tennis balls. The can be simple or complex.
- Dirty tennis balls can be washed in the washing machine. Use less soap and add in some old rags or towels to help “scrub” the balls.
- Making rag braids is easy. Cut you rags into long strips and tie 3 strands together at the end. Braid the rags together tightly and tie a knot at the end.
- When making rag braids, remember that the final braided-rope will be thicker and shorter than the unbraided strands.
- Be careful not to use materials that are too fuzzy, or too easily pulled apart.

(From SFSPCA)