



Animal Beds for Crates, Rescues, and Pounds

There have been many displaced animals due to the fires and Australia's pounds are full. Rescuers are taking on as many as possible, but supplies are dwindling. Making these beds will keep a variety of animals comfortable. These beds will be used for domestic animals as well as wildlife being transported between vets and carers.

These beds are comfortable but not too thick, making them easy to wash and replace frequently. Scared, injured, anxious animals can wee, bleed, vomit, poop, or get their dinner all over these, so their carers need a few per animal.

Size Chart – Finished Items

| Size | Width | Length | Fits Crate Size |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Extra Small | 36 cm or 14" | 46 cm or 18" | Half of 30" |
| Small | 50 cm or 20" | 74 cm or 29" | 30" |
| Medium | 60 cm or 24" | 90 cm or 35" | 36" |
| Large | 70 cm or 28" | 106 cm or 41" | 42" |
| Extra Large | 74 cm or 30" | 118 cm or 47" | 48" |

Fabrics to Use

The recommended outer fabric for these beds is **polar fleece**. Other warm, sturdy fabrics like chenille or sweater fleece can be used too. Remember, it needs to be highly washable and soft.

Between the two layers of fabric is a layer of padding. An old, clean mattress cover or thin doona (duvet) or blanket would be perfect. (We highly advocate upcycling what you have already!) In a pinch, two more layers of fleece would work too.

It's important to note that the fabrics you use **must be synthetic**. This allows liquids to drain away from the animal so it remains comfortable and speeds up drying after washing. (Mattress covers and doonas often have a thin cotton outer – that's fine.)

Instructions

1. Cut out two pieces of polar fleece about 2 cm or 1" larger than the finished sizes above.
2. Cut out a piece of padding (mattress cover or similar) about 3 cm or 1.5" smaller than the finished sizes above.
3. Pin the two pieces of polar fleece together with right sides facing in and sew along the two long edges and one short edge. Turn inside out so seam is on the inside.
4. Stuff the polar fleece pouch with the stuffing and flatten out carefully. Fold over the open end to hide raw edges and pin.
5. Sew the open end closed and continue around the entire bed.

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6. Sew a circle or curved rectangle on the inside of the bed to 'lock down' the padding with the outer fabric. This shape should be about 2/3 the size of the whole bed to best stabilize the padding with the fabric.
7. Trim all threads and admire your cozy animal bed!

These beds are a great project for beginner sewists because nothing needs to be too exact, and straight lines are fine.

An example bed by a novice sewer. Loved by many cats!



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