

How to Sew a Scrappy Pet Leash (and Cage Comforter)

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Sewing for your pet is a great way to use up extra fabrics. Making your own dog or cat leash is easier than a trip to the store to buy one.

The cage comforter is a great donation item for animal shelters. The length and width can be adjusted to suit your needs or the needs of the animal shelter. Read more about the Cage Comforter project on my blog at <https://www.sewcanshe.com/blog/2014/9/6/cage-comforters-sewing-for-furry-friends>.

Leash dimensions (as sewn): approximately 6' long and 5/8" wide.

Comforter dimensions: 14" x 20"

Leash Instructions:

Fabric and notions:

- 2 1/2" strips of fabric that total 8' when sewn together.
- 1/2 yard Medium weight fusible interfacing (Pellon Deco-Fuse 520 or Shape Flex SF-101 suggested)
- Swivel snap clip (Dritz Swivel Hook 512 or 513 suggested)
- coordinating thread for sewing and topstitching
- Sewing machine walking foot (recommended)

Cutting:

1. Cut enough 2 1/2" wide strips of fabric that will total 7' long when sewn together with a 1/4" seam allowance.
2. Cut enough 2 1/2" strips of fusible interfacing to measure 8' when laid end to end.

Sewing:

1/4" seam allowance allowed, except where noted.

1. Sew the 2 1/2" pieces of fabric together to make a strip 8' or longer. Press the seams open to reduce bulk.

2. Fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of the long strip, except for 1/2" at each end of the long strip. Place the ends of the interfacing together to ensure that the entire strip is stabilized evenly (except for 1/2" at each end of the long strip).
3. Fold the strip in half lengthwise and press. Open and fold the long edges to the center, press. Fold in half lengthwise and press again.
4. Unfold one end of the strip and re-fold with right sides together. Stitch across the end with a 1/2" seam allowance. Refold the strip as pressed, enclosing the raw ends inside the strip.

Repeat on the other end of the strip.

5. Using a walking foot (if available), topstitch 1/8" from the edge all the way around the leash.

Finishing:

1. Fold one end of the strap over about 7" and pin or clip in place. Sew a small square to secure the end of the strap, making a handle.
2. Push the remaining end of the strap through the swivel clip by about 1 1/2". Clip or pin the strap against itself. Sew a small square at the end to secure the clip.

Cage Comforter Instructions:

Fabric and notions:

- 1/2" yard of fabric
- 14" x 20" piece of batting (any kind)
- coordinating thread for sewing and quilting
- Sewing machine walking foot (recommended)

Cutting:

1. Cut 2 rectangles of fabric 15" x 21".

Sewing:

1/2" seam allowance allowed.

1. Place the two pieces of fabric right sides together.
2. Sew 3 sides.

3. Clip the corners. Press the raw edges to the wrong side by 1/2". Turn right side out and press.
4. Insert the batting, smoothing it out on the inside.
5. Fold the raw edges to the inside around the batting and press. Sew the opening closed 1/8" from the edge.
6. Secure the batting by quilting around all 4 sides about 2" from the edge.