

OWQ Pet Bed Project

Instead of throwing our fabric and batting scraps into the trash, we use them as stuffing for pet beds.

Pet beds can be any size – from kittens to large dogs. The beds can be free-standing, or they can be used in a pet crate. The basic idea is to make a pillowcase – a rectangular piece of fabric that is stitched on 3 sides. Once stuffed with scraps, stitch up the open side and you're done!

For the pillowcase fabric, anything will do – fabric that you don't like well enough to make into a quilt, fabric that you don't have a large quantity of. You can piece the pillowcase – just make sure your seams are strong (recommend at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " seams) so they don't pull apart. If you make up a few of these pillowcases, you can put them into a waste basket in place of a plastic or paper bag and stuff your scraps directly into them. Saves a step. Binding clips are good to hold the pillowcase to the rim of the waste basket.

Make sure you check for pins or any other foreign objects before stuffing your scraps into the pillowcase!

You can choose to cut your scraps into small pieces (although if a dog chews into the pillowcase, that can make a mess), or you can use larger pieces – just make sure to smooth them out so they aren't all lumpy.

Don't over stuff! About 2-3" thickness is fine. (If the bed is overstuffed, the pet might roll right off of it!)

When stuffed, just stitch up the open end. You can turn the raw edges under to give it a more finished appearance.

Our pet beds are donated to The State of the Ark (the thrift shop associated with the Humane Society), to Second Chances (which helps the pets of people in need), and to other animal welfare groups in our area.