



2024 Volunteer Packet

Comforting Homeless Pets ~ One blanket at a time!

Thank you for wanting to help!

We sincerely appreciate your interest in joining our group of volunteers and making blankets. This packet has all the information you'll need to get started today!

Who we are...

Comfort for Critters ships free, handmade pet blankets to animal shelters across the US. We're a social entrepreneurship that raises funds to "keep going and keep shipping" by selling books packed with easy crochet patterns and information on the animal sheltering industry. If you don't have your own way of crafting blankets, our books help you make blankets to donate to shelters, or to comfort your own pet!

All net proceeds go to ship our free handmade blankets to 400+ animal shelters in every US state! These blankets are made by our amazing group of volunteers, who come from all parts of the US.

While homeless pets await adoption, the blankets provide a comfortable bed year-round. When they are adopted, their blanket goes with them, providing something familiar as they adjust to their forever family.

We happily support all animals which may end up in shelters, including cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rabbits, fancy rats, fennec foxes, ferrets and more! Together we're making a difference to animal shelters & homeless pets!

As of 12/31/2023 we have donated
over **181,000** free blankets to
animal shelters!

May God bless you...

as you bless others,

Linda

Meet Anna...



Anna, pictured above, was adopted from the DuPage Animal Shelter in Wheaton, IL, and inspired her new mom to start "Comfort for Critters" in 2007 to help all the pets she couldn't adopt that day.

Why blankets?

An animal's life can be challenging when they find themselves in an animal shelter. Despite heroic efforts by the staff and volunteers, it's extremely stressful as they lose their home, are moved from cage to cage, and are subjected to new sights and sounds on a daily basis.

Having something to call their own, which provides warmth year-round (even against A/C in the summer), familiar smells and a soft touch, can make all the difference.

Once the animal is adopted, this comfort object is a cushion against the (wonderful) stress of getting to know their new surroundings and forever family. Once again, their blanket provides something comforting and familiar!



4 Ways you can help...

#1 Make a blanket – it’s fun!

Just **knit or crochet** a blanket using any pattern and any color of washable yarn. Feel free to mix and match colors, and create your own pattern. You can also make blankets using **fleece** material (two pieces sewn or tied together) or create **mini-quilts**. The finished blanket should be approximately 20-22” square, but that’s just a general guideline. The shelters help all sorts of pets, so they will accept blankets in all sorts of sizes!

#2 Donate materials – even leftovers!

If you don’t have the time or expertise, but do have some extra 4-ply yarn or fleece material, we can put it to good use. **Any amount of washable 4-ply yarn, any color, would be appreciated.** All material is provided free of charge to local volunteers. Every bit is used to create beautiful blankets for homeless pets.

#3 Help keep us “in business”!

We rely solely on the generosity of animal lovers to help us ship our free blankets to animal shelters across the US. CFC’s founder is the author of two books (shown at right) packed with 30 pet blanket crochet patterns, along with related industry information. They can be purchased at the CFC website, or on Amazon. Every purchase “helps us keep going and keep shipping”!



\$10 E-books available at ComfortForCritters.org



~ Pin us on Pinterest ~
 ~ Like us on Facebook ~
 ~ Follow us on Instagram ~



Check us out at
ComfortForCritters.org





Getting your blankets to a shelter ...

We try to make it easy on our volunteers! Just follow these quick steps...

- **Locate your closest participating shelter** using our website (look under “Shelters Supported”). Click on the link to the shelter to get their full address and hours of operation. Be sure to mark your blankets to the contact name’s attention!
- **Drop off your blankets** during the shelter’s hours, or any time outside their front door (there’s people there, even if they’re “closed”). You may also mail your creations to the shelter, at your convenience. Use the enclosed “Drop-off Memo” (bottom half of page 5) when you donate your blankets so that they know they’re part of the CFC program. This will ensure that the blankets are sent home when the pet is adopted.
- **Send me an email** (or fill out our website form) with the number of blankets and the name of the shelter you chose. I keep track of what every shelter receives, so that I know what to ship from headquarters and can guide other volunteers.
- **Local volunteers can drop off blankets to me!** CFC began in the suburbs of Chicago, so we have many local volunteers. They are welcome to drop off their blankets to CFC headquarters in Glen Ellyn, IL (the complete address is on page 5) and we’ll send them out to a shelter in need. ***Any contribution towards shipping costs is greatly appreciated!***



Resources Just For You!

Our website has these items to help you make blankets, find a nearby shelter and more:

- Free patterns to knit, crochet & make fleece blankets.
- Updated list of participating shelters, with website links and contact names.
- Pictures of finished blankets, as idea starters.
- Lots of thank you notes from shelters!
- Interesting craft and pet information!
- Free monthly newsletter - subscribe on the website!



Questions?

I’d be happy to answer any question, just email me at Linda@ComfortForCritters.org.

Thank you for wanting to make a difference in the lives of these homeless pets. One blanket might not change the world... but it **will** change the world for one lucky “critter”!



What animal shelters say about Comfort for Critters...

*"On behalf of our shelter animals, those in our foster homes, and our entire organization, THANK YOU very much for the boxes of comfort blankets and toys you have shipped to us. The blankets are beautiful and our animals love to snuggle in them. It is really nice to be able to provide handmade blankets to the animals, knowing that they were made with love! We appreciate your support!" ~ **Animal Service League***



*"We are the happy recipients of 50 handmade soft cuddly blankets. These blankets are so soft, warm, and beautiful – our foster caregivers are thrilled to provide these lovely blankets to our foster kittens, cats and puppies. The blankets will then be sent home with each animal to their 'forever' homes. Thank you to your great organization." ~ **Castaway Critters***



*"Our adopters and animals are loving the blankets and the purpose of them. Every animal that has been adopted has gone home with one. They are so colorful. Thank you for reaching out to us and getting us involved in your mission." ~ **Humane Society of Harrisburg Area***



What our volunteers say about Comfort for Critters...

*"We cannot take in any additional pets, but I wanted to still help others find a home. Making the blankets gave me a way to help while using my crafting skills. I think the blankets will make the animals more appealing to adopters and they'll comfort the animals, making them calmer! This was my first time donating blankets and when we came to the shelter, I wasn't sure of the reception I would receive. When the ladies saw them they were so excited that I felt like my time and effort was well worth it!" ~ **Catherine J. in Mays Landing, NJ***



*"I lost two cats a week before Christmas within two days of each other. Heartbroken and depressed I want to honor them by helping this cause. I'm feeling better! I think the blankets will comfort pets in many ways. It's something of their own, made through love and energy, that will follow them to their new home. This cause has given me hope and a purpose - it has helped me find my balance again and work through my grief. Thank you." ~ **Diana C. in Aurora, IL***

*"I know how grim animal shelters can be. I've volunteered and worked for pay at several shelters, and all too often, cats and dogs only have newspaper to lie on. Blankets make such a positive difference in their lives. And when they're happy, they get noticed more, and they get adopted!" ~ **Hazel B-M in Tallahassee, FL***





FAQs...

What's the best size for blankets?

We suggest 20-22" square since this will fit the most shelter enclosures and is appropriate for the greatest variety of pets. However, the shelters help pets in all sorts of sizes, so ANY SIZE blanket will be appreciated and used!



How do I get your free newsletter?

Subscribe at ComfortForCritters.org!

Where should I donate my blankets?

If you're near our headquarters in Glen Ellyn, IL you can drop them off any time. Please leave your name and email address with the items. If you're outside of our area, check the "Shelters Supported" page on our website, and drop off or mail your blankets to the contact name listed. Use the link to get the shelter's address. **Be sure to let me know, using our website form – thank you!**

Comfort for Critters

3s139 Sequoia Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

.....
Linda Kozlowski
Founder & Owner

Linda@ComfortForCritters.org

How do I donate yarn or fleece?

We only accept donated yarn and fleece at our address in Glen Ellyn, IL. These materials are provided free of charge, 24/7, to all local volunteers.



Use this drop off memo every time you donate blankets to a shelter!



*Thank you for caring for homeless pets ...
here's something to help!*

Please enjoy these **brand-new, handmade** blankets personally crafted for your group and the pets you care for. They were made by me, a CFC volunteer, as part of our mission to **comfort all the pets we can't adopt** (*but wish we could!*)

As you know, Comfort for Critters is a volunteer program that creates hand-made blankets to comfort animals living in animal shelters or in foster-care. While these animals await adoption, these blankets provide a comfortable bed year-round. When they are adopted, their blanket goes with them, providing something familiar as they adjust to their "forever family".

Your organization has agreed to use these blankets with the pets & send a blanket home when a pet is adopted. We welcome a shout-out on social media, @ComfortForCritters on Facebook or Instagram. Thank you!

Volunteer name: _____
Address or email: _____

Comfort for Critters
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www.ComfortForCritters.org
Info@comfortforcritters.org