

*Instructions provided by a volunteer at Foothills Animal Shelter, Golden, CO  
to help kittens*

### ***Kitten Socialization Bag***



These instructions are written for someone with sewing experience and there are limited details/instructions. There are instructions for bags/cases with zippers on several websites if you want more assembly ideas and pictures.

You may want to read all the way through before starting because of the possible variations.

To make best use of the fleece, these instructions are written for enough materials to make TWO bags. The fleece material size also includes enough for the option to have a strap to carry the bag over your shoulder, and there are 2 different kinds of handles/straps. The bag width is based on zipper length and a 3 to 4 pound kitten can fit through either zipper size opening, with room to move and turn in the bag.

**Materials for 2 bags:**

**Fleece, 60 inches wide:    2/3 yard        for 2 Bags**

**Webbing shoulder strap (optional) - 2 yards of 2 inch webbing (1 yard for each bag). (Adds to cost over fleece strap, but makes assembly faster.)**

**2 Zippers: either 12 or 14 inches. Consider: locking zipper, sports zipper (wider, sturdier) or 'purse' zipper that has 2 pulls and can open from the middle (and may be secured at the pulls for kittens that learn to unzip).**

**Net: 1/4 yard Net is enough for 2 or 3 bags, depending on the width of the net. Mosquito netting or 'utility' netting as shown in the photos. (May want to avoid 'sports' netting that has spandex because may shrink with sanitizing washes).**

## **Sizes and Cutting**

### **12 Inch Zipper**

Finished size Approx  
13 inches wide, 9 inches tall, 4 inches deep

Cut fleece:  
Fleece bag: 14 inches wide, 26 inches long

### **14 Inch Zipper**

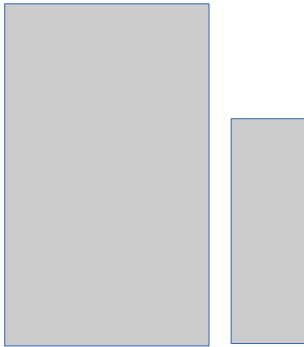
Finished size Approx  
15 inches wide, 10 inches tall, 4 inches deep

Cut fleece:  
Fleece bag: 16 inches wide, 28 inches long

Either size: Net: 2 pieces: 12.5" x 6.5"

OPTIONAL Fleece Straps: Cut two 5 inches by 30 inches strips,  
OR OPTIONAL webbing straps cover: Cut two 5 inches by 15 inches strips.

**Layout Shown** for 60 inch fleece: 2 bags, and fleece for covering for 2 webbing straps (5 x 15 inches, shown), or for fleece strap (5 x 30 inches). (May want to cut with fleece in single layer because of thickness of fleece.) (Not to scale).



### **SIDES of the BAG:**

**The fleece removed for the windows for the net will serve as the side pieces for the bag.** After cutting the bag, carefully cut out a piece from the bag for the windows equal to the side pieces (10 wide x 5 high if using a 12 inch zipper, 11 wide x 5 high if using a 14 inch zipper) (photo below). The top edge of the window should be 4 to 4 & 1/2 inches from the top raw edge of the bag, with the window centered to have 2 inches on either side of the window to the raw edge.

### **Assemble**

**Net:** On the wrong side of the fleece, center the net over the hole and pin (Photo). Zigzag as close to the edge of the fleece as possible, Zigzag again approx 1/4 inch away. Trim away extra net. Do the same for the other window.



**Zipper:** Pin closed zipper face down on right side of fleece along one top (short) edge, aligning edge of zipper tape with edge of fleece (left picture). Using zipper foot and starting at bottom of zipper, straight stitch along zipper. (Once get close to zipper pull, raise foot, and slide pull down and out of the way.) Using regular foot, zigzag on edge of zipper tape. Pin other side of zipper face down on right side of the fleece on the other end, and repeat stitching next to zipper and on edge of tape (Center). Finished zipper from the outside - right photo. Fold the fleece over the end of the zipper and zipper tape so it meets, and baste ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch allowance) across the end of the zipper tape to help get a good closure for the fleece and zipper ends at the sides.



**Each Side:**

For each side of the bag, start with the top edge of the side section: With right sides together, pin 5 inch edge of side to top of bag, centering the side piece over the center of the zipper. Pin the remaining 3 sides, right sides together (photo below). It may help to start with the center at the other end of the side (5 inch end) to create the bottom of the bag, and then fit the sides and corners. You may need to stretch or ease in the corners.

Sew with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowance, and keep zipper tape flat. (May want to stitch zipper end first, then pin and sew remaining 3 sides. Sewing zipper end twice also reinforces the end of the zipper.)



Do the same for other side, and the bag is done!

**Strap**

If you want to attach a carry strap, this can be done using the fleece or webbing with an optional fleece cover.

**Fleece** –

Make the strap: cut a 5 inches wide strip 30 inches long as discussed in the cutting section.

Fold in half lengthwise, right sides together, and sew with ¼ inch seam allowance across the first end and part of the way down the side, stop to leave a gap for turning right side out. Start at the other end and sew the end and down the side, stopping 2 to 3 inches before the other stitching to leave the hole to turn rightside out. Turn right side out, turn in raw edges, and stitch opening closed.

Notes:

You may also fold wrong sides together and sew the strap all the way around leaving the seam on the outside – the kittens probably won't care, but it might not be as comfortable on your neck.

If fold & sew right side together and turn rightside out, the corners will be very thick, so trim corner seam allowance before turning and/or sew inside the seam allowance bulk when attaching.

Webbing – 2 inches wide by 36 inches long. Carefully, with a lighter, melt the very edge at both ends to keep from unraveling.

OPTIONAL: Can make a fleece pad for the neck. As shown in the Cutting section, have a 5 x 15 piece of fleece for each strap. Zigzag stitch along each 5 inch edge. Fold in half lengthwise, right sides together, and sew with 1/4 inch seam allowance. Turn rightside out and slide onto webbing before attaching webbing.

Attach the strap: Pin strap to sides of bag. End of strap should be about 2 inches below top edge of bag and centered on the side. Sew around the edges of the strap. Sew across the strap about ½ inch below the seam for the top edge of the bag, being careful to not catch seam allowance where the zipper is attached. Can also sew diagonally across the square that has been stitched on the strap. (inside with webbing – left photo, Outside with fleece – center photo).



### **Zipper ideas**

At least one kitten was able to open a zipper. Consider a locking zipper, some sort of tie around the handle that can connect to the zipper pull, a safety pin to lock the zipper, or some other means to keep the zipper closed if the kitten will be left unattended. (Above – right is one example that can be added before securing both ends of strap.)