

## How to Find or Make a Cat Bed



**By Dr. RJ Peters (the “Cat Lady”)**

You love your cat, and you want him or her to be completely comfortable and happy in your home. Since cats love their naps so much, providing a really great place to snooze will be one of the most appreciated things you can do for your fur ball.

There is a huge variety of beds for cats in the marketplace, ranging from very affordable to the very ritzy, "money-is-no-object" quality.

If you have crafting abilities, the variety can be even greater.

But let's face it: Creating a place for kitty to sleep is probably the easiest thing you can do. Even a towel placed on a chair can be an invitation to a cat to lie down and take a nap. (If you've ever folded laundry, you know what I mean!)

And if you don't do anything at all, Kitty will find her own spot anyway. (See photo above.) But it's fun and heartwarming to provide a nice, comfortable place for her to relax. And the options are numerous.



### "Free and Easy" Options:

- Find a simple basket, making sure it's large enough for your cat. It doesn't matter if it has handles or not, as the cat doesn't care.

Put anything in it.... or nothing at all. Cats love baskets, whether they are lined with material, or plastic, or nothing. But to help keep things clean, a piece of something, even a towel, is a good idea. These can be replaced as needed. Keep a few on hand and use a clean one while the current one is being washed, for example.

- Find a box.... cats love to jump into boxes. In fact, many stories exist about cats getting lost during a household move, only to turn up at the new house because they stowed away in a box. However, as you surely are aware, this is something you really should try to avoid, as it's not the safest way to move a cat.



These kittens are safe inside a cardboard box with high sides and a clean towel to rest on.

Anyway, if you choose to use a box, you can decorate it, if you like, or it could be a fun craft project for the kids! Just be careful about what you use for decorative materials. Avoid ribbon, for example, as kittens, especially, could get into serious trouble if they ate it while you weren't looking.

Also avoid anything that might be toxic or damaging, such as foil, artificial flowers or leaves, real leaves, and paint. If you do paint it, be absolutely sure it is completely dry before Mr. Cat uses it. However, many cats will chew the basket strands, so paint is generally not recommended.

- Fold a towel and put it wherever you think Mr. Cat would enjoy taking his naps. Or use this as an opportunity to teach him where you prefer he sleep. Cats can be attracted to something a lot more easily than repelled away from something.



This is a case of protecting a surface they want to nap on.  
A "rag rug" has been placed on top of the deep freezer.  
Obviously, they took charge of where they intended to nap.  
I just needed to protect the freezer. Oh well...

Here are some inexpensive options:

Buy the "perfect basket" and line it with nice material. Decorate the edges with lace or material, sewn or glued down. Another fun craft project!

For those who are into basket weaving, and have the time, this could be a good project, too!

If you are handy with a sewing machine, buy some fleece material and sew a round, quilted pad with a nice edge.



Don't forget, they love to lounge on pillows, too.

Check the various web sites that feature pet furniture and look for something in your price range. Feel free to explore my web site at <http://www.thebestcatfurniture.com/>

3. If money is no object, by all means, explore the pet furniture web sites to find the most amazing array of beds you will ever see.

Above all, have fun, and relax with your cat, knowing you have done all you can to make her life in your home the best it can be.



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