

MAKING A COAT FOR A SHIVERING SKINNY!

Anne Finch's method: The Lazy Way (not having to use bias binding)

This makes a double layered coat which is advisable. Single layers do not give enough protection . The temps drop to minus 12oC in many parts of Spain and the kennels are outside. Do make the ties at least 2 in wide and 3 foot each so they cross underneath and tie up over top and don't cut into the belly of the dog. Many dogs in shelters are left for 24 hours unattended and with 300 dogs to clean at a time, in a hurry, accidents go unnoticed.

Using the template below as a pattern (each square on the grid is 6" (15 cm) sq.), present the top edge of the template to a fold in your material and cut it out double. Do this twice, and with right sides together, sew all round the outside edges leaving a small gap to be able to turn the whole thing inside out. Sew a six foot band of soft material at least two inches wide onto the middle of the back for the belly band. Two men's ties from a charity shop are perfectly well suited to this too. Finally, oversew or bind the two thick edges which go over the breastbone, very firmly together. This can be a weak spot.

Standard blanket/coat material can be used double unless it is particularly thick and could do singly, perhaps with a flannelette/soft cotton lining. Another idea is to cut up and use material from second hand padded anoraks (which have the advantage of being waterproof,) or padded dressing gown material.

Sew on the ties and the breast bone seam very firmly. Bored dogs in a refuge love to play- 'you get mine off and I'll get yours off....' with the consequence that they get all tangled up with their foot through the head bit and not enough legs left to get to the water and the food bowls. Silly dogs.....

Anne Finch

If you have access to the internet, and our web page , there are more patterns there;

<http://www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk/howyoucanhelp/howyoucanhelpFrame.htm>

knitting patters, snuggler patterns, and the very simple conversion pattern we devised when we were given 1000 airline blankets

