Please read all instructions before beginning. Please follow these exactly as they need to stand up to daily use of a dog.

**Needed:** an iron, straight pins, thread, tailors chalk, measuring tape and/or yard stick.

2 pre-cut pieces of fabric, each measuring 25 ¼ by 37 ¼. The finished size of the mat is 24” x 36”. We are using different fabrics, some new, some recycled. **The finished mats must be 24” x 36”** to ensure that they fit snuggly into the crate tray. The entire mat has to be machine sewn on all four sides (no zippers or Velcro closings) and finally no thicker than 3/8 to 3/4 of an inch. They will need to be top stitched, through all thicknesses. This means quilting over the entire mat with a large “X”. You will need to be experienced in top-stitching or quilting in order to do this.

**Directions:**

1. Place right sides together making sure all corner and edges are even. Pin the two fabrics together about every 4 to 5 inches, placing the pins perpendicular to the edge. This is an important step when working with two different materials. Pinning will keep the fabrics from slipping against each other and when you finish the seam it will be even.

2. Begin by sewing down the right 36” side. Use the 5/8” mark on the seam template on your machine bed to keep the seam straight and at the correct width. Continue sewing across the 24” top and down the left 36” side.

3. Remove mat from the machine and using your iron, press open seams.

4. Measure 36” from the top seam down, mark with chalk to form a seam line across the fourth side. Fold and press the material on the chalk line.

5. Next, sew along the chalk mark from the side seam to about 6” in on both sides. Remove from machine.

6. Turn the pad to the right side, press all seam lines flat and making sure the edges of the unsewn section are turned in and even with the sewn section.

7. Top stitch the open seam as close to the edge as possible. Check that all open edges are stitched closed.

8. Top stitch, through all thicknesses, 3” from edge and then diagonally the top left corner to the bottom right corner and again from the top right corner to the bottom left corner. Remove any straight pins.
Dear Volunteers,

The GDF needs crate pads for the puppies in training. We are hoping the sewing team members can help. If you have existing and suitable material and would be willing to make one or two mats, it would be a great help.

**Suggested fabrics** (all fabrics must be washable and preshrunk if necessary. Colors do not matter.)

Top Layer: Fleece, corduroy, quilted material, blanket, faux fur gently, used clean bedding such as flannel sheets and pillowcases, micro fiber sheets, bed/crib quilts.

Bottom Layer: Cotton Canvas Fabric or similar weight material, corduroy, washable decorator fabrics, flannel, micro fiber, felt.

Fillers: (Used for stability if top and bottom layer are of a lite material.) ¼" polyester batting, material cut from blankets or quilts that are too worn to use as a top layer.

We have been asked by the facility that is raising the pups to have the **finished mats measure 24" x 36"** to ensure that they fit snugly into the crate tray. The bottom material needs to be one that does not slip. The entire mate has to be sewn on all four sides (no zippers or Velcro closings) and finally no thicker than 3/8 to ¾ of an inch. They will need to be top stitched, through all thicknesses.

Optional: brown or similar paper to make a 25 ¼" by 37 ¼" pattern

**Directions for making a Crate Mat:**

Cut 2 pieces of fabric, each measuring 25 ¼” by 37 ¼.” The finished size of the mats is 24”x 36” with 5/8” seam allowance. Cut your filler layer if needed to 24”x36”. Place right sides together making sure all corner and edges are even, pin. Sew around all sides, leaving an opening for turning. Press open seams, trim corners. Turn to right side, insert the filler if needed. Smooth mat flat turn the open edge in making sure it is even with the sewn seam. Top stitch closed.

Finally, top stitch 3” to 4” in from the finished edge and then diagonally across from the inside corners forming an X.

Feel free to be resourceful, you can sew pieces together to form the base or the top, you can join smaller pieces of filler material with a zigzag stitch. You can use a gentle worn guilt by sewing a newer piece of fabric on top. The important thing to remember is the mats must be sewn securely, for the safety of the puppy.