

Craft Leftovers... Sleepy Ferret Hammock

Ferrets are cute and cuddly, mischievous, and above all else: sleepers! They sleep for about 16 hours a day and are only awake for 8 hours - and that's when they are young. Beuler - my old man ferret whose 6 now - is only awake for 2 -4 hours each day. It's important that they have good places to sleep during those long hours. They will curl up just about anywhere, but hammocks are great because they keep the light out, are soft, warm, and good for snuggling in.



With this pattern you can make your own sleep sack hammock for your little one or, as in the case of the one I'm making, for a little one at the local shelters. Unfortunately the rate of abandonment for ferrets is very high. People mistakenly think it's like having a rat, rabbit, or hamper. It's more like having a sugar glider or, really, a puppy mixed with a squirrel. Good at getting into trouble, eating things they shouldn't, and needing many hours of hands on play every day turns out not to be what people thought it would be. So abandoned, neglected, malnourished (Beuler's case - he was soooo little when I first adopted him at 1 year old), and turned into shelters everywhere. I want to make sure that my local shelter has the right equipment

for their ferrets or maybe even something to give the new owner to get their ferret condo set up right.



Ingredients:

- 1/3 yard fleece
- 1/2 yard Grossgrain ribbon - 1/2" wide
- Clips of any kind
- Sewing machine
- Some loving thought for ferrets (I get sentimental and all soft about these little critters)

1. Fold fleece in a half so it is now 12" X 30". Stitch around all edges.

2. Fold fleece as in figure one so your ribbon is sandwiched between the two layers.

3. Stitch edges to secure straps and fleece in place. Do another row of straight stitching just to be sure it holds up well to ferret fights.

4. Use your clips to secure through loops and into the cage. I like diaper pins - if they won't stick a baby, they won't stick a ferret (in theory).

If you have them, use clips like you see on the store bought ones - you can get them at the craft store, but I didn't have any leftover from anything, so safety pins it is!

