



Voices from the Community

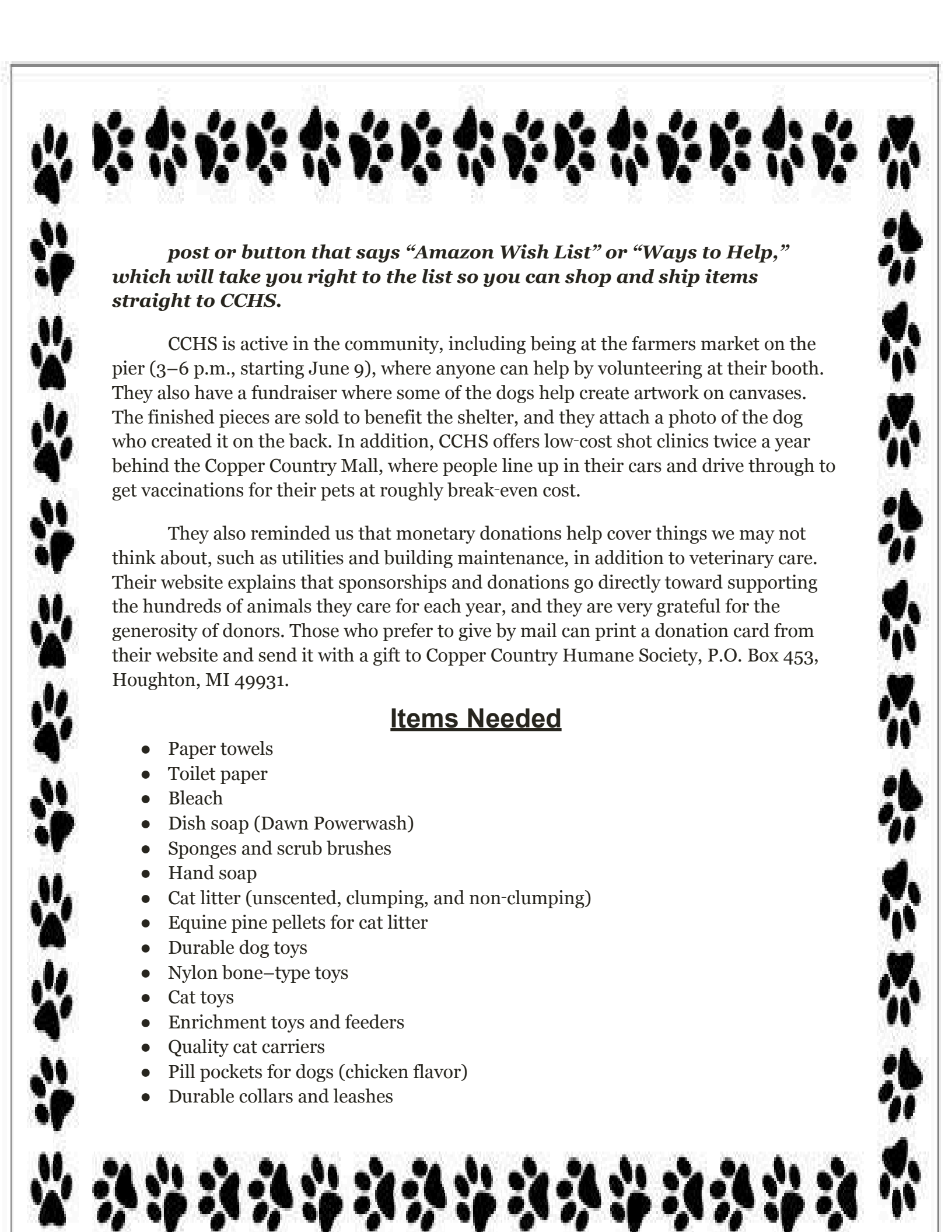
Copper Country Humane Society

At our recent chapter meeting, we welcomed “Voices from the Community” speakers Thomas Fournier and Heather Sander, who both serve on the Copper Country Humane Society board. We enjoyed a nice luncheon with them and discussed the challenges the shelter is facing right now and how we can help as a chapter. They shared that CCHS cares for roughly 700–900 animals each year and that two of their biggest ongoing expenses are vet bills and staff wages. Their annual veterinary costs are around \$150,000, and it is getting harder for them to access local vets, so sometimes they even have to go out of state for care.

The shelter operates with a very small staff (a manager, an assistant manager, and several part-time caretakers) and is often operating in the red. A lot of what they receive is passed right back into the community through their “pet pantry” in the foyer, where local families who are struggling financially can pick up cat and dog food and basic supplies so they can keep their pets. They have a separate arrangement for the Hills Science Diet cat and dog food they use at the shelter for dogs and cats. Right now, this time of year (March–April) is one of their slowest for donations, which makes support especially important.

They emphasized that there are many ways to help: donating supplies, giving financially, and volunteering time. Volunteering is by appointment only, and sending them a message on Facebook is often the easiest way to set that up. During the school year, volunteer slots fill quickly because many students complete their service hours there, but the summer is a better time for adults and groups like ours. They also welcome homemade toys, scratching posts, tie blankets, and similar items, and they even have a Pinterest board with ideas. Another simple way to help is to save Tadych’s (formerly Econo Foods) receipts; CCHS receives 1% of the totals from the receipts they turn in. CCHS can be found online on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and other social platforms, and their website links to their Amazon wish list and volunteer sign-up pages.

You can also use their Amazon wish list to send items directly to the shelter. To find it, go to the Copper Country Humane Society website and look under the “Ways to Help” or “Wish List” section, where there is a link to their Amazon list. You can also go to their Facebook page and look for a



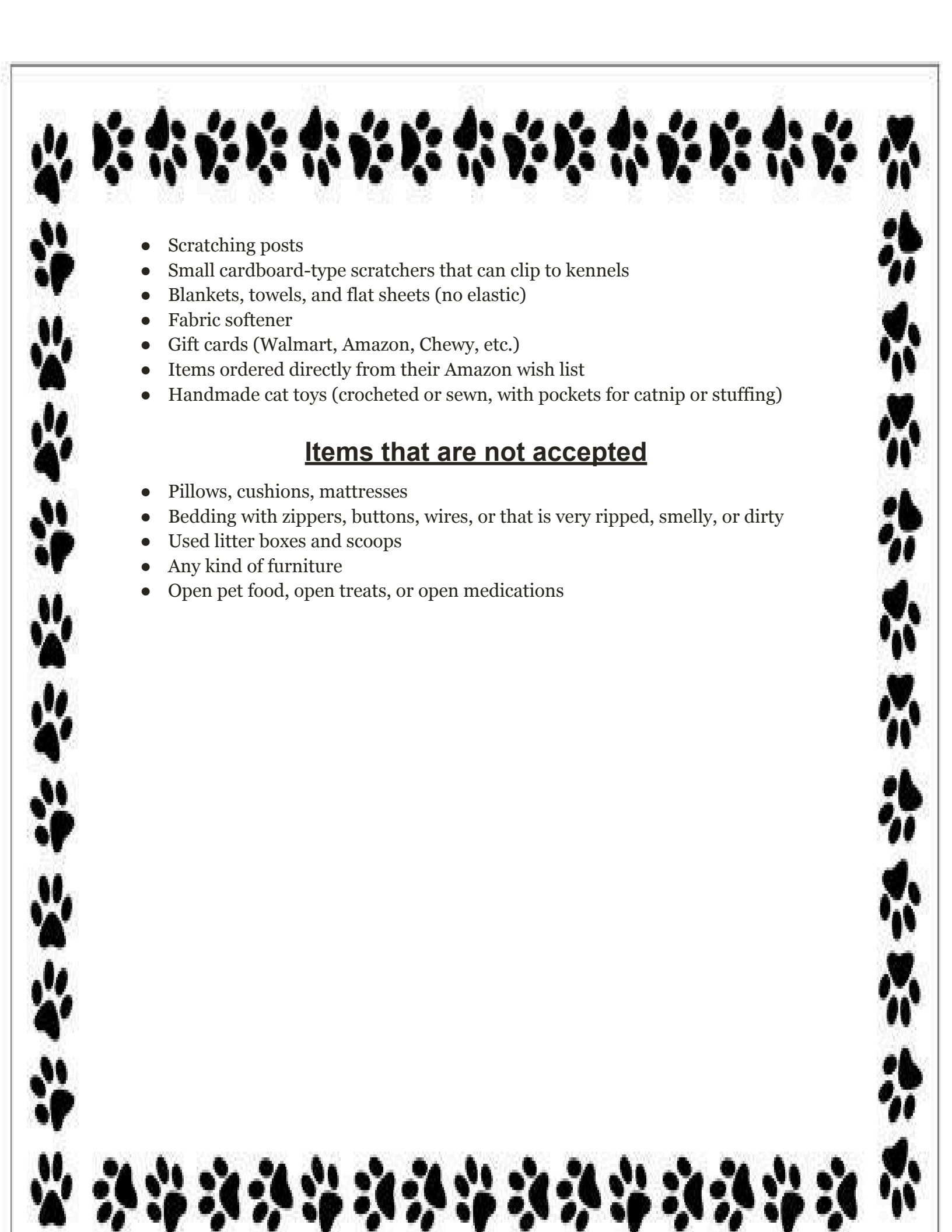
post or button that says “Amazon Wish List” or “Ways to Help,” which will take you right to the list so you can shop and ship items straight to CCHS.

CCHS is active in the community, including being at the farmers market on the pier (3–6 p.m., starting June 9), where anyone can help by volunteering at their booth. They also have a fundraiser where some of the dogs help create artwork on canvases. The finished pieces are sold to benefit the shelter, and they attach a photo of the dog who created it on the back. In addition, CCHS offers low-cost shot clinics twice a year behind the Copper Country Mall, where people line up in their cars and drive through to get vaccinations for their pets at roughly break-even cost.

They also reminded us that monetary donations help cover things we may not think about, such as utilities and building maintenance, in addition to veterinary care. Their website explains that sponsorships and donations go directly toward supporting the hundreds of animals they care for each year, and they are very grateful for the generosity of donors. Those who prefer to give by mail can print a donation card from their website and send it with a gift to Copper Country Humane Society, P.O. Box 453, Houghton, MI 49931.

Items Needed

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Bleach
- Dish soap (Dawn Powerwash)
- Sponges and scrub brushes
- Hand soap
- Cat litter (unscented, clumping, and non-clumping)
- Equine pine pellets for cat litter
- Durable dog toys
- Nylon bone-type toys
- Cat toys
- Enrichment toys and feeders
- Quality cat carriers
- Pill pockets for dogs (chicken flavor)
- Durable collars and leashes

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- Scratching posts
 - Small cardboard-type scratchers that can clip to kennels
 - Blankets, towels, and flat sheets (no elastic)
 - Fabric softener
 - Gift cards (Walmart, Amazon, Chewy, etc.)
 - Items ordered directly from their Amazon wish list
 - Handmade cat toys (crocheted or sewn, with pockets for catnip or stuffing)

Items that are not accepted

- Pillows, cushions, mattresses
- Bedding with zippers, buttons, wires, or that is very ripped, smelly, or dirty
- Used litter boxes and scoops
- Any kind of furniture
- Open pet food, open treats, or open medications