



# Square Knot Fleece Toy

Toys are very important to your pet's well-being. Toys encourage your pet to play and express natural behaviours, one of the Five Freedoms of animal welfare. They also help fight boredom when they're left alone and provide comfort when they're feeling nervous.

**Materials:** Fleece (enough to make 4 strips approximately 2 cm wide x 1 m long)

**Directions:** Begin by cutting the fleece into 4 strips approximately 2 cm wide and 1 m long. These lengths can be adjusted based on the size of the toy you want. The strips do not need to be straight. Next, tie the four strips together with a knot at one end leaving a few centimeters of fleece before the knot to become a tassel. Begin weaving the fleece using the square knot technique.

**1** Spread the strips in a cross (+) shape.

**2** Fold the top strip towards the bottom.

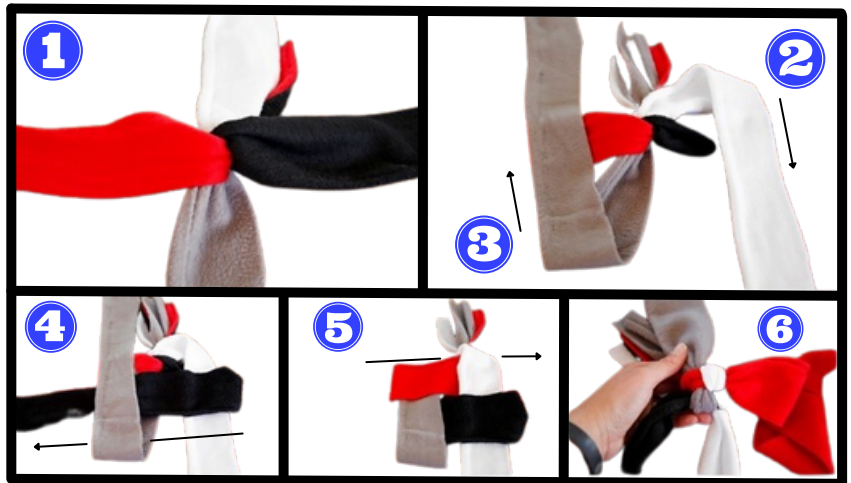
**3** Fold the bottom strip towards the top.

**4** Fold the right strip towards the left, passing over the strip folded down and then under the strip folded up.

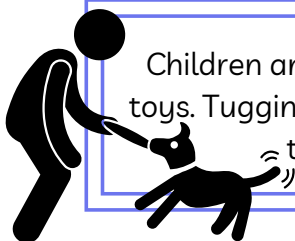
**5** Fold the left strip towards the right, passing over the strip folded up and then under the strip folded down.

**6** Pull to secure.

**7** Repeat steps 2-6 until you are approaching the end of the fleece, leaving enough for a knot and tassel.



## For Discussion:



Children and dogs should always be supervised when playing together with toys. Tugging should not be done for long but rather the dog should be trained to drop it. Tugging can lead to aggression in some dogs.