

Barrier Aggression Panels

(All this construction and materials information is generously shared by Paula Harper who makes these panels and other agility and specialty sewn products. You may contact her at pjh59@aol.com or call 603-496-6069 to discuss ordering barrier aggression panels for your shelter/kennel. Dee Ganley pioneered the concept and use of these panels and can help you problem solve how to use them effectively in your shelter/kennel. Contact her through www.deesdogs.com)

Material:

Panels are made of a 100% nylon product because 100% Nylon can be bleached many times without damaging the fabric. 420 Denier is the ideal weight –as it holds up to use and washing, but allows light through. You can purchase this fabric at JoAnn Fabrics (at about \$9 a yard) Often you can find seconds for about \$3.00 a yard.

Size:

The panel needs to be exactly the size of the outside of the kennel door. If it is too big it will flop and the dog will be able to get their teeth on the edge and rip it up.

You will want to stabilize/stiffen all along all four (nylon or polypropylene webbing). Stiffening the edges reduces movement and makes it harder for the dog to get a hold on them. Nylon Webbing can be purchased at many different places, but shop around anything over 50 cents a foot is too expensive. Go to www.horse.com - this company sells polypropylene 150' for \$12.9. Remember - nylon or polypropylene so that it can be bleached- so that the panels can be machine washed or just hung out and hosed.

Construction:

In each corner and at 24" intervals down the side is placed a brass grommet. A grommet kit can be purchased at Home Depot, Lowes, or almost any hardware store. Ours are industrial and if this is desired any awning store will usually place them for you for a small fee. Be sure that the grommet is large enough so that the double ended snap fits thru easily for attachment to the kennel wire. Double ended snaps are also available at hardware stores, Lowes, Home Depot or a feed store.

Tips to remember.

- ALWAYS use a calm color, soft blue, yellow or green so as not to give the illusion that danger is present. We also have made pink to go on kennels that have a mom and pups (this helps kennels volunteers).
- Never use a fabric that cannot be bleached.
- Nylon ripstop is too light and will not hold up.
- Anything that is heavier than 420 denier or is urethane backed will stop all airflow.
- Be sure of the size so that the panels are taught when mounted.
- A packed can be stitched to the outside to hold the animal info card.

The address for fabric is www.owfinc.com This company had been great to deal with and always has a lot of fabric on sale that can be used. But the option of the neighborhood fabric store can also be good if you can catch a discontinued color, second or sale.

If you shop around and get deals on the materials, you can usually make one for about \$15.00 a panel. (This does not include the labor.) The stitching can be done on most home machines. Use only nylon thread - try to buy thread treated to stand up to UV and urine.

The feedback indicates that these are effective for cat kennels as well.