This pattern is for a fabric cover for the plastic picnic baskets commonly used by wildlife carers. Please read the instructions fully before commencing. The instructions listed are for the manner in which I sew this cover but if you are an experienced sewer, you could easily change the instructions to suit your own sewing method.

**Items Needed**

1. Fabric for the outside of the cover – at least 80cm x 80cm
2. Fabric for the lining of the cover - at least 80cm x 80cm
3. Fasteners for each end (e.g. Velcro or KAM snaps)
4. Usual sewing notions
5. Sewing machine
6. Pattern (see note below)

**Note:**

- Chose a lightweight natural fabric such as quilting cotton or a cotton sheet to ensure that the animal does not overheat.
- Use a medium to dark colour for the lining to provide additional security to the animal.
- Use the measurements from the pattern to trace the pattern out on a large sheet of paper. You may need to tape several sheets of A3 paper together or use a large sheet of butcher’s paper.
- If you plan on making several covers, I’d suggest tracing the pattern out on a large piece of plastic. You can easily create a template by cutting the pattern from several old x-rays taped together (see photo below).

**1 – Prepare your fabric and trace your pattern**

- Iron your fabric to remove any creases (this is important for a neat finish).
- With the fabric right sides together, trace the pattern onto the fabric using a pencil.
- There is no need to pin your fabric together before marking the pattern.
2 – Pin your fabric

- Pin your fabric together now.
- Make sure that your fabric is smooth and there are no wrinkles in either the top or lining of the fabric. This will ensure that you end up with a neat finish.

3 – Sew the fabric together

- Starting on one of the long sides, start sewing exactly on your line (marked A in the above photo).
- Sew all around the pattern on the line. Lift the presser foot of your machine to pivot 90° when you get to the corners.
- Stop about 6 inches from where you started to leave an opening to turn the cover inside out (marked B on the above photo).
- Make sure that your fabric stays nice and flat together while sewing.
4 – Cut your fabric

- Trim around your fabric approximately ½” from your drawn/sewn line.
- Clip the corners to reduce bulk so that it will sit correctly when turned.

5 – Turn inside out and press

- Turn your cover out.
- Use a chopstick or similar to push out all of the corners so that they are square.
- Iron both sides of the cover well ensuring that you tuck in the opening so that it sits neatly.
- Pin the opening closed (marked C in the below photo).
6 – Sew the ends

- Locate the sections marked on the pattern as A and B on each side.
- These sides need to be folded up (right sides together) to meet each other so that they can be sewn together.
- Pin in place and stitch along each four sections with a narrow 1/8” seam.
- Make sure that your pinned cover now looks like the photo below to make sure that you are stitching the correct sections together.
7 – Topstitch

• Use a matching thread and topstitch around entire cover.
• Topstitching over the pinned opening will close it.
• When you get to the folded sections, square your fabric before sewing to achieve a neat finish.

8 – Secure the ends

• Place the cover on your basket and mark where you need to fix your closures.
• If using Velcro, mark and sew securely in place. Use only a small piece of Velcro, bearing in mind that it can be very noisy and frightening to an animal in the basket.
• Alternatively, use KAM snaps if you have them.
You are finished!

**Seam Allowance**
The pattern does NOT include a seam allowance. If sewn using the method listed, the seam allowance will be accounted for when cutting.
If you are cutting your fabric before sewing, you will need to add in your seam allowance.

**Pattern Template**
If you would like a copy of the pattern posted to you, please email Karen@wildcare.org.au.
For a donation of $5.00 to Wildcare, we can post the pattern to you traced onto a piece of Trace and Toile.

Easy Reference Sheet prepared by Karen Scott – Karen@wildcare.org.au
Cover for plastic rescue basket

Designed to fit basket with lid size of approx. 74cm x 74cm.

Location where velcro or snaps will be placed.