Making Squeaky Toys for Dogs

Materials:
- Fabric- Fleece is great for this project
- Fiberfill
- Thread
- Needle
- Pins
- Squeakers- found at pet stores
- Pattern- Printable patterns of a bone, fish or person are available below. Patterns are made to print onto 8 ½ x 11 ½ paper, no need to resize them. Or create your own!!
- Sewing machine (optional)

Steps:
1. Lay out fabric on a flat surface and fold over with the right sides together so you can cut out two pieces of fabric at one time.
2. Pin the pattern to the fabric and carefully cut around the pattern.
3. Pin the fabric so that all of the edges are aligned and held in place by the pins.
4. Mark the area to be left open for inserting the stuffing and squeaker with double pins. The double pins will serve as a reminder to stop sewing so that you don't sew the opening closed.
5. Using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew the edges of the shape, leaving the opening for stuffing un-sewn.
6. Be sure to back stitch at the start and end. Pivot and turn where necessary to maintain a seam that is an even distance from the edge of the fabric.
7. Clip the seam allowance at all curves with a scissors so the fabric will lay smooth when it is turned right side out. Clip so that you are cutting the fabric just to the sewn seam, without clipping the sewn stitches.
8. Turn the fabric right side out through the opening and push all seams to the edge of the fabric. Do not use scissors to push out a corner or seams. Scissors will poke out through the fabric. Instead, try using a wooden skewer, chop stick or a turning tool found in fabric stores.

9. Stuff the toy with the fiberfill. Insert the squeaker so that it is in the center of the toy and surrounded by stuffing.

10. Use a hidden stitch to close the opening.

11. Give the toy to a dog or cat and watch them have a blast!