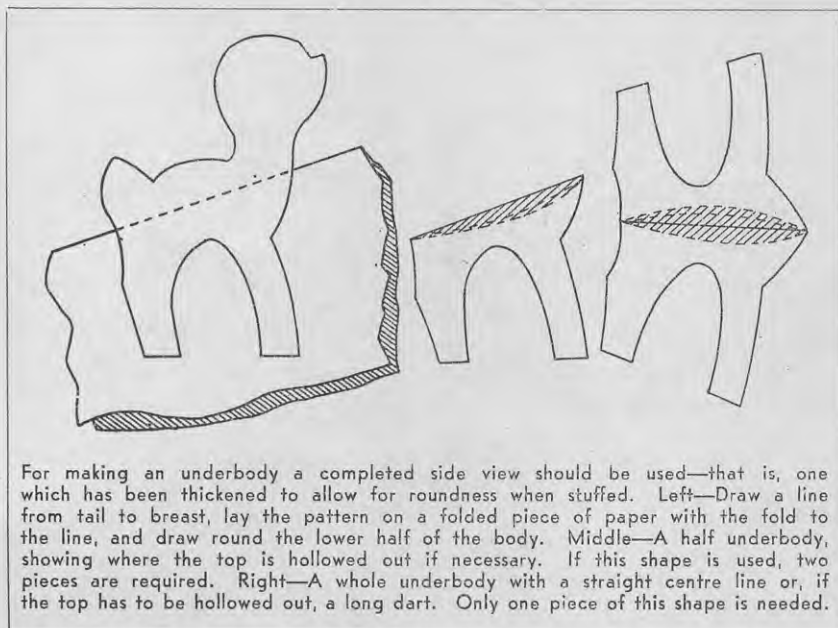


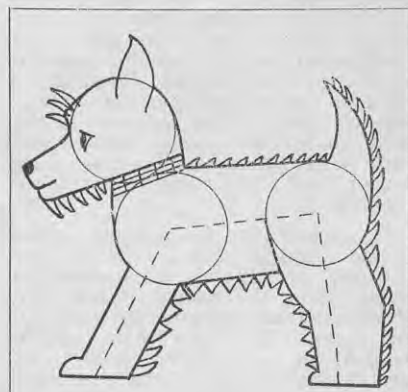
MAKING FELT TOYS



For making an underbody a completed side view should be used—that is, one which has been thickened to allow for roundness when stuffed. Left—Draw a line from tail to breast, lay the pattern on a folded piece of paper with the fold to the line, and draw round the lower half of the body. Middle—A half underbody, showing where the top is hollowed out if necessary. If this shape is used, two pieces are required. Right—A whole underbody with a straight centre line or, if the top has to be hollowed out, a long dart. Only one piece of this shape is needed.

Strip-type Solid Toys

The same or similar patterns may be used for the strip type of solid toys if the animals have short legs, thickness being given by joining the two halves together with a strip at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide running right round them. To calculate the length of the strip, measure carefully round the side-view pattern with a tape measure and add $\frac{1}{2}$ in. for joining. The strip should be joined under the animal where the stitches will show least. Tack the two sides to the strip so that they match exactly; if the strip stretches unevenly or the sides do not match, the animal will be crooked and will not stand up properly. Using matching or contrasting thread, sew the seams firmly with stab stitch, oversewing, or blanket stitch. The seams are on the right side, and the two ends of the strip are joined last of all.



An extra-large seam allowance can be fringed after the animal has been sewn up to give the effect of a shaggy dog.

When a short length of seam remains to be sewn stuff the toy. Push the stuffing well into the furthest corners first and do the body last. Finally, complete the seams and join the ends of the strip. Embroider or applique a face, and add ears and any other simple trimmings desired. If the animals have ears that stand up, these should be sewn in with the strip. A red tongue improves a dog, especially if his mouth is slightly open. However, do not put on too many trimmings, as the very simple shapes do not warrant it.

If the strip is sewn in a little from the edge of the side pieces, the extra seam allowance can be snipped to form a fringe—for example, down the backs of the legs and along the tail of a shaggy dog, or for a horse's mane. Shaggy ears can also be effective on a spaniel, but stand-up ears are best for most animals.

Strip-type toys are best 4 to 6 in. long (with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. strip) and should not be longer than 12 in. (with a 4 in. strip). They are so simple that if they are made too big they become uninteresting.

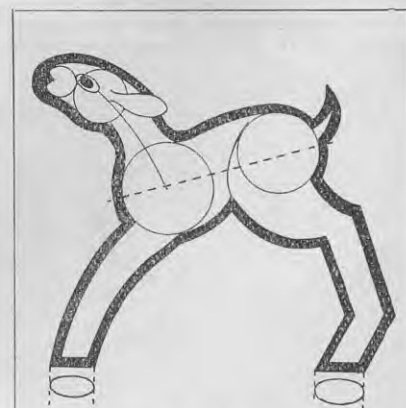
Four-legged Gusset Toys

Though they represent the most advanced stage of soft-toy animal patterns most four-legged gusset toys are not really difficult to make. Several of those illustrated were drawn by a mother from pictures in her children's story books. A side and a front view are needed. Animals with long, slender legs may be made up in this way, but the legs of even the smallest animals should not be narrower than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. or they cannot be stuffed, so the slender effect should be obtained by making the legs longer, not narrower.

When the desired side view has been drawn, add a uniform increase all round to allow for the rounded shape of the body when it is stuffed— $\frac{1}{4}$ in. for animals up to 6 in. long, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. for those 6 to 15 in. long, and for bigger ones still about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Then cut the increased side view in duplicate.

Next draw the underbody. Fold a piece of paper and lay a side piece on it so that a line from the tail to the breast lies on the fold. Draw the outline of the lower part of the body on the paper and cut it out, still folded. Open it out, and if it seems too wide compared with the width of the side piece, refold it and hollow the line along the fold. The underbody may be cut out in one piece or two, but if the fold line has been curved, a long dart must be machined into a one-piece underbody to give this curve, so it is just as simple and more economical of felt to make it in two. The centre seam helps a little to pull in the legs of the animal, though sometimes a seam up the centre of the chest is undesirable. For smaller animals with long legs, the front and back legs of the underbody may be separated also if it is necessary to economise with felt; this necessitates a short cross-seam under the animal, but it can be inconspicuous. Camel and giraffe patterns are made like this.

Finally draw the head gusset. First measure the required length along the head of the side piece from just at the back of the head, over the forehead, and round the nose to just under the chin. Mark off this length along the fold of a piece of paper wide enough to make the gusset. Mark off also the points of the profile where the width of the gusset will change—for example, the top of the head, the forehead, the eye, and the tip of the nose. To measure the width at these points correctly it is necessary to have or to draw a front view of the animal. The effect can be improved surprisingly if the varying widths of the face gusset are in proportion and true to life. Half the width is marked on the folded paper at each point. Lines the



A side view thickened to allow for roundness when the animal is stuffed. The line from tail to breast is that of the underbody. The soles of the feet are drawn the same size as the bases of the legs.