

Happily Better After Room Redesign & Home Staging

Anyone can have the home of their dreams - sometimes it just takes a little magic!

Organizing Your Pet's Stuff



It's estimated that Americans spent a whopping \$47.7 billion on their pets in 2010. Almost 25% was spent on supplies and OTC medications. No wonder it seems like our homes are overrun with pet gear! It can be challenging to keep it all organized, but there are a few ways to keep it easy to access and under control, especially since Fido and Fluffy are no help at all when it comes to managing their own stuff!

Sleeping/Confinement Area

If your pet is confined in a tank, cage, or crate for extended periods, place its habitat in an area free from drafts, and out of the main traffic lanes of your home. The same goes for beds or cat towers/lounges. Setting up a corner of the room with your pet's bed with storage space for its supplies nearby, is a convenient way to keep everything together.

Toys

Quantity tends to be a common problem, so if you decrease the number of toys, they will be easier to manage. Only keep a few

favorite toys available for daily play, and store the rest. Items like baskets, hinged boxes, or storage ottomans are



Photo: Petstages.com

ideal for storing toys, and can be easily incorporated into your décor. If you have space in a cabinet or closet, stackable plastic drawers can keep your pet's playthings neat and protected. Every couple of weeks, swap out the toys in active rotation for the ones that have been stored; your pet will think it's getting new toys all the time!

If your pet still has too many toys, consider donating the extras to a local animal rescue organization or shelter. Call the organization for their specific requirements, but [eHow has some great general guidelines](#) to follow.

Food Storage



Photo: Frontgate.com

Designate one area for the dry food, cans, and treats, preferably separate from your human food. Instead of keeping pet food in their original boxes or

bags (unless they're resealable), use airtight containers or plastic zipper bags to keep dry food and treats fresh. Adding a plastic drawer unit in a kitchen cabinet is a great way to keep all of your pet's treats neat and in one spot for easy access.

Feeding Supplies

For dogs and cats, consider having at least two sets of food and water bowls so there's a clean one available while the other is being used. Store the clean set in the same area where you keep their food and treats. If you've got a messy eater, use a mat or tray with a raised lip under the food and water bowls; it will catch any stray kibble, wet food, or water splashes.

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Health and Beauty Items

First and foremost, store your pet's grooming supplies and medications separately from those for the human members of your family, and out of the reach of kids. Plastic drawer



units are great for storing pet shampoos, sprays, combs, brushes, nail clippers, first aid products, nutritional supplements, and flea and tick medications. If your pet needs medicines that require refrigeration, use a shelf in the

door, and place the medicine nearest to the door hinge, out of the way of the food items that your family uses frequently.

Litter Boxes & Cleaning Supplies

Most cat owners prefer to place litter boxes in areas with easy access and good ventilation where the cats can have some privacy. Bathrooms, utility rooms, mudrooms, basements, and spare bedrooms are all popular locations for a cat box. Keep quick cleanup supplies like scoops, plastic bags, and odor eliminator in a plastic caddy nearby; keep supplies for major cleanings (fresh litter, cleaning solution, rubber gloves, paper towels, etc.) stored in a plastic bin where you typically clean the litter box.

Gear

Wall hooks are perfect for keeping items like collars, leashes, harnesses and clean poop scoops handy.

Stackable plastic totes or drawers accommodate folded or flat-packed outerwear and "fun wear"

like sweaters and t-shirts, as well as other supplies like clean-up bags, water bottles, or travel bowls.



Photo: thisnext.com

Need help getting your pet's supplies under control?

Contact Happily Better After at **609.880.9682** or

info@happilybetterafter.com – we'll be glad to help you find places for it to sit and stay!



Happily Better After works with people who struggle with the seemingly overwhelming task of transforming their homes. They desperately want to create a home that is attractive, comfortable, and organized, whether they plan to sell or stay. Happily Better After is different from other home makeover companies because we make sure our clients are at ease with the changes taking place, so they can get unstuck and move on with their lives.


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