



A Day's Work Done For Love

In true "Friend" tradition, we are appealing to the generous hearts of our readers to make the Love Darg Appeal 2016 a resounding success. This year we are asking you to help support the work of Cats Protection by knitting a mouse toy or knitting or crocheting squares for comfort blankets and donating them to help the cats in their care.



Main photograph and instructions by Lauren O'Farrell, www.whodunnit.com.

MOUSE

Size: 10 cm (4 ins).

MATERIALS

1 50-gram ball each of **Double Knitting Yarn** in main shade and contrast shade (note each mouse requires approx. 15 g of two yarns or 30 g of one for solid colour); small amount of Pink and Black; 3.75 mm (No. 9) knitting needles, large-eyed darning needle; toy stuffing, small squeaker (optional) and catnip (optional).

Note: Cats Protection colours are blue or black and yellow, but any combination is fine.

TENSION

22 sts and 28 rows to 10 cm measured over st-st using 4 mm needles.

ABBREVIATIONS

Alt – alternate;

fol – following;

K – knit; **M1** – make one stitch by picking up the horizontal loop lying before the next stitch and knitting into the back of it; **P** – purl; **st(s)** – stitch(es); **st-st** – stocking-stitch (knit one row, purl one row);

Important Note

When writing to us with your queries, you must enclose an SAE if you would like a reply.

BODY

With 4 mm needles and main shade, cast on 2 sts.

1st row – Knit.

2nd and every foll alt row – Purl.

3rd row – K1, M1, K1 – 3 sts.

5th row – K1, M1, K1, M1, K1 – 5 sts.

7th row – K1, M1, K3, M1, K1 – 7 sts.

9th row – K1, M1, K5, M1, K1 – 9 sts.

11th row – K1, M1, K7, M1, K1 – 11 sts.

13th row – K1, M1, K9, M1, K1 – 13 sts.

15th row – K1, M1, K11, M1, K1 – 15 sts.

17th row – K1, M1, K13, M1, K1 – 17 sts.

18th row – Purl.

Change to contrast shade.

19th row – K1, M1, K15, M1, K1 – 19 sts.

20th row – Purl.

Change to main shade.

21st row – K1, M1, K17, M1, K1 – 21 sts.

22nd row – Purl.

Change to contrast shade.

23rd row – K1, M1, K19, M1, K1 – 23 sts.

24th row – Purl.

Change to main shade.

25th row – K1, M1, K21, M1, K1 – 25 sts.

26th row – Purl.

Change to contrast shade.

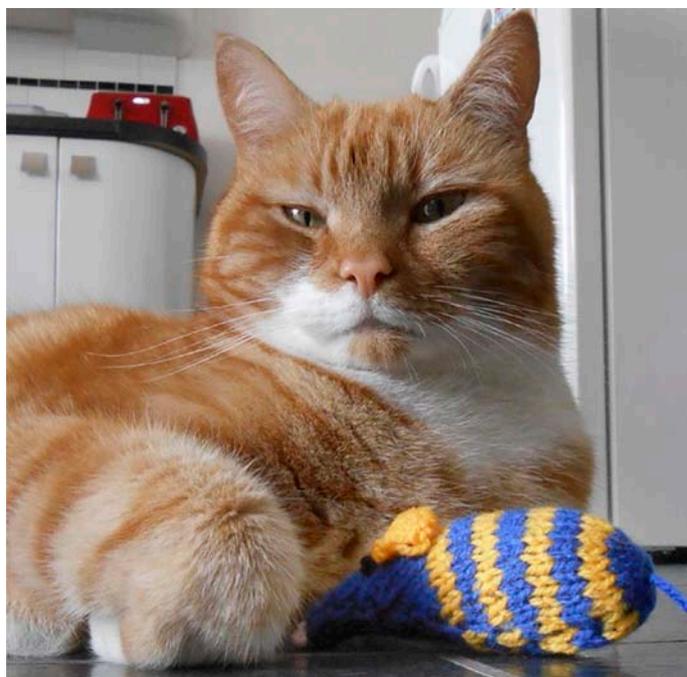
27th row – Knit.

28th row – Purl.

Change to main shade.

Keeping stripe sequence correct, repeat last 2 rows 4 times more.

Break off yarn leaving a tail of about 15 cm. Thread yarn through remaining sts and draw tight to form round tail end of mouse. Fasten off.



EARS

With 4 mm needles and contrast, cast on 5 sts.

Beginning with a knit row, work 5 rows in st-st.

Break off yarn leaving a tail of about 10 cm. Thread yarn through stitches and draw tight to make round part of ear.

Darn in yarn end.

Sew cast-on yarn through bottom sts and draw tight to make lower part of ear.

TO COMPLETE

Sew two sides of mouse body together from tail end to nose end, making sure the stripes match up. Leave a hole for stuffing.

Insert stuffing and, if using, squeaker and catnip into the mouse body. Wrap squeaker and catnip in stuffing before inserting to make sure they are squidgey and don't make

the mouse lumpy.

Finish sewing body right up to the tip of the nose. Sew on ears using cast-on yarn ends. Embroider nose and eyes with pink or black yarn, making sure ends are very tightly secured in the body of the mouse. Secure a length of yarn through body and out the tail end to form a tail. Tie a knot at the end of the tail. Make sure all ends are very tightly secured.

Launch towards nearest cat.

Do not use stretchy yarn, yarns that split easily, very fluffy yarns or yarns with sequins or beads. Use stitches that create a firm fabric, avoid loose weave and drop stitches and do not use very large needles. Please do not use plastic eyes and make sure all stitching is very secure. Sew in all ends. Cats Protection also suggest that cat owners regularly inspect their own cat toys for signs of wear or damage, and recommend not leaving cats unattended with knitted toys. Do not use knitted toys or blankets with cats that have wool-chewing habits.

How To Donate

Please send your Love Darg knitted donation to Cats Protection "Love Darg Campaign", National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate,



Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 7TT or alternatively hand them in to the Cats Protection stand at the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace from October 5 - 9, 2016. All donations will be very gratefully received and will be used for cats in the care of Cats Protection or to help raise funds. Please note that it will not be possible to acknowledge donations sent by post.

If you would like to donate money to help with

the work of Cats Protection, you can send a cheque to the address far left. Please make the cheque payable to Cats Protection and also write "The People's Friend" on the back of your cheque. Please do not send cash.

Alternatively, you can make a donation over the phone by calling 0800 917 2287 (office hours, Monday to Friday) and quoting "The People's Friend Love Darg campaign".

Thanks for your support.

Next week: more Love Darg makes.

