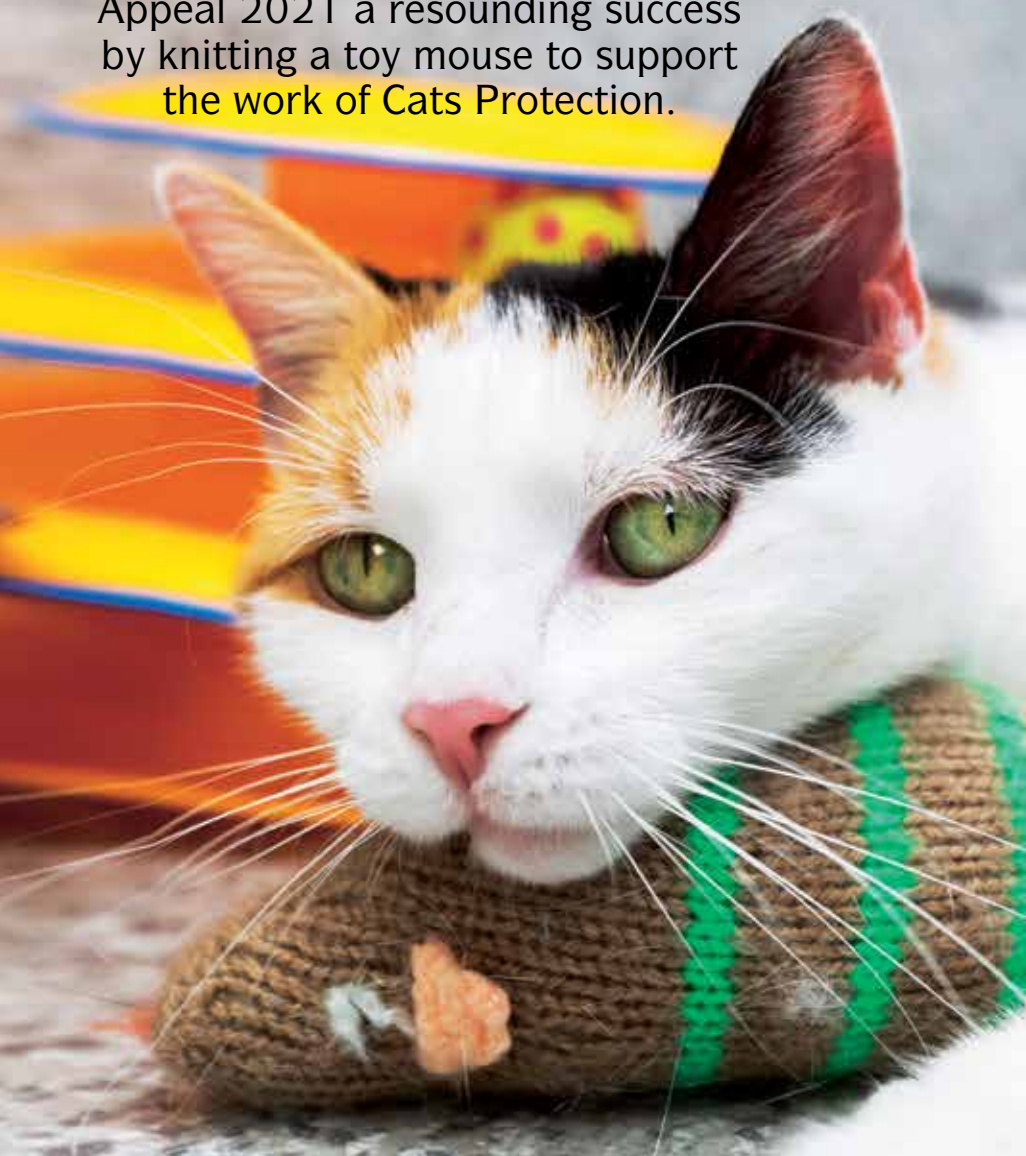


# A Day's Work Done For *Love*



Easy

Help us make the Love Darg Appeal 2021 a resounding success by knitting a toy mouse to support the work of Cats Protection.



## 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; 4 mm (No. 8) knitting needles, large-eyed darning needle; toy stuffing, small squeaker (optional) and catnip (optional).

**Size:** 10 cm (4 ins).

## 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)** – stitches;  
**st-st** – stocking-stitch (knit one row, purl one row).

## Important Note

When writing to us with your queries, you must enclose a stamped, addressed envelope if you would like a reply.

## BODY

With 4 mm needles and main, 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 15 cm tail. 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 and 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 and darn in. Sew cast-on yarn through bottom sts, tighten 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. Finish sewing body right up to the tip of the nose. Sew on ears using cast-on yarn ends. Embroider nose with pink yarn, making sure end is 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. Ensure all ends are very tightly secured.

**Do not use stretchy yarn, yarns that split, fluffy yarns or yarns with sequins or beads. Use needle size quoted. Make sure all stitching is very secure, sew in all ends and don't use plastic eyes. Cats Protection suggest that cat owners inspect their cat toys for signs of wear or damage and recommend not leaving cats unattended with toys. Do not give to cats that have wool-chewing habits.**



## ▶ All About Cats Protection

Cats Protection is working hard to overcome the impact of COVID-19, which led to the closure of shops and the cancellation of face-to-face fund-raising events. The charity has had to adapt during lockdown, particularly with its highly successful new online adoption process, which enabled people to rehome a cat without visiting centres. A year after launch, Cats Protection had rehomed over 20,000 cats this way, giving many people around the UK some much-needed companionship during lockdown.

Cats Protection has also continued its vital campaigning work throughout the pandemic, including pushing for the compulsory microchipping of cats, which remains the best way to reunite owners with their lost or stolen pets, sometimes after many

years. The charity is also working hard to educate people on some of the issues around buying kittens online.

As well as finding new homes for unwanted cats, Cats Protection offers a number of services to support cats and their owners.

Paws Protect is a temporary fostering service for people who are fleeing domestic abuse, Paws to Listen offers emotional support for those who have lost their beloved pets and Cat Guardians gives people peace of mind that in the event of their death, the charity will care for their cat until a new home is found.

The charity also continues to provide cat-care information to the public through a range of methods including its National Information Line, website, leaflets and talks to schools and community groups.

### THE LOVE DARG – HOW IT BEGAN

The Love Darg is “The People’s Friend’s” very own charitable appeal. Its name comes from an old Scots phrase meaning “work done for love”, and throughout its long life it has stayed true to that founding principle. The Love Darg began in 1885 as a Grand Exhibition and Bazaar of Juvenile Industry to raise funds for a cot in the Children’s Ward of Dundee Royal Infirmary. It then developed into a nationwide charity appeal that has seen “Friend” readers make and donate thousands of gifts over the years.



### HOW TO DONATE

Please drop off or post your Love Darg make at one of Cats Protection’s adoption centres or charity shops (your nearest adoption centre or shop can be found here [www.cats.org.uk/find-us](http://www.cats.org.uk/find-us) or by calling the National Information Line on 03000 121212). Please note – addresses will only show online for our adoption centre and shop locations. If you can’t get online then your makes can be posted to **Cats Protection Love Darg Campaign, National Cat Centre, Lewes Road, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath RH17 7TT**. 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 these donations. If you would like to donate money to help with the work of Cats Protection, you can send a cheque to **Cats Protection Love Darg Appeal, National Cat Centre, Lewes Road, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath RH17 7TT**. Please make the cheque payable to Cats Protection and write “The People’s Friend” on the back of your cheque or visit [www.thepeoplesfriend.co.uk](http://www.thepeoplesfriend.co.uk) to find out how you can make an online donation. 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. Thank you for your support.



During COVID-19, Cats Protection has been educating the public about feline pregnancy in order to avoid a summer kitten crisis with vets unable to carry out cat neutering operations.

Cats Protection has around 200 volunteer-run branches and 30 centres across the UK. It also has around 110 charity shops and a national Contact Centre (open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and provides cat welfare advice to the public.

In 2020, Cats Protection helped 126,000 cats and kittens – that’s around 345 a day. It found new homes for 27,000 cats, reunited 1,900 lost cats with their owners and neutered 109,000 cats and kittens, including 11,750 feral cats. It also gave talks on cat welfare to 13,600 people, helped 53 families through its Paws Protect service and rehomed 145 cats through Cat Guardians.

### CASE STUDY

Frances Jeater is an actor from Richmond in Surrey. She was one of the first people to use hands-free

homing when she adopted her cat Molly in April 2020.

“My beloved cat Bertie died two years ago at the ripe old age of thirteen. I swore to myself that I wouldn’t get another cat but as the weeks passed I realised how much I was missing having one,” she tells us.

“When we went into the first lockdown and all the animal rescue centres closed, I thought I’d missed the boat. Then a friend mentioned that Cats Protection had launched a new online adoption process called hands-free homing.

“I went on to the website and spotted five-year-old Molly. Obviously I couldn’t go and meet her, but the Cats Protection team provided lots of information about her personality. A week later, Molly was delivered to my home and settled in straight away.

“She is utterly enchanting and makes me laugh every single day. Lockdown without Molly would have been very grim indeed.”

For more information about cats in need of homes, visit [www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk). ■

**Next week: more Love Darg makes.**