

Perfect Fit Top-Down Dog Sweater

(Pattern Generator)



After trying several other dog sweater patterns, I could never find one that fit my dog perfectly (with the added difficulty of her being a trippawd!), so I worked until I developed my own pattern and finally she has a sweater that fits like a glove! This pattern is worked top-down, seamless, and in the round, with stitches picked up for bottom border and sleeves. Very easy calculations are required in order to find the perfect fit for your dog's measurements. This is also a perfect basic pattern to add your own creative touch...fair isle, cables, and more.

I would like this pattern to be as simple and user friendly as possible. Please feel free to send any comments, suggestions, etc etc!! Created by Travelling Tree Designs 2011.



~*~A Little Story About Luna & Street Dog Care NGO~*~

I work for an NGO in Kathmandu, Nepal devoted to offering medical care to injured stray street dogs (www.StreetDogCare.org). While there, 3 month old Luna was hit by a car that resulted in one amputated leg and injuries on all other three legs. While nursing her back to health, Luna and I fell in love and I realized I could not leave her to fend for herself back on the streets, so I brought her back to the United States with me. Luna is one of the more fortunate dogs, most of dogs remain in Kathmandu living out their life on the street, with very little care other than what is offered by NGOs. Street Dog Care Organization is run solely on donations from caring individuals, if you have a special place in your heart for our canine friends, please consider visiting Street Dog Care's website for more information and perhaps offering a kind donation. Thank you and with much love from Kathmandu!:)

www.StreetDogCare.org



Materials:

Any weight of yarn, with enough yardage to create a sweater in your dog's size

Circular needle in size that fits well with your yarn

2 stitch marker

Crochet Hook (for picking up stitches)

Techniques:

Knitting in the round

Knitting in the round w/ magic loop method or DPN

Picking up stitches

Gauge:

Any gauge, see calculations below.

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First....find your dog's size (write your dog's measurements below):

Dog's neck: 13

Dog's ribcage: 20

Between dog's front legs: 3.5

Circumference of dog's front leg, at very top base of leg: 7

Next...determine stitches required (follow these calculations by filling in the blanks and rounding up to the next whole number):

Your Gauge: _____

Gauge _____ X Neck in inches _____ = Collar stitches _____ (Note about collar stitches, if your dog is bothered by a tighter neck, add ease here (i.e. add about 1" to the neck inches) and then find collar stitches. If you prefer a tighter fitting collar, then don't add ease.)

Ribcage in inches _____ + 1 inch = Final Ribcage inches _____

Gauge _____ X Final Ribcage in inches _____ = Final Ribcage stitches _____

Between dog's front legs in inches _____ - .75" = Final B/w leg in inches _____

Gauge _____ X Final B/w leg in inches _____ = Between legs stitches _____

Circumference at top of dog's front legs _____ + 1 inch = Final leg circumference in inches _____

Gauge _____ X Final leg circumference in inches _____ = Final Sleeve Stitches _____

A note about optional leash hole.

If you would like to add a hole in your sweater for your dog's leash to come through, this is how. I won't be mentioning it in the pattern below, so just add this leash hole in your appropriate area, if desired.

Find exact center back of sweater. Bind off 2-3 stitches on both sides of exact center. Continue working round. On next round, when you come to the hole, cast on the same number of stitches that you bound off and continue knitting evenly. After you have completed your sweater, pick up stitches on top side of hole and K1P1 for about .5" and bind off. Now pick up stitches at bottom of hole and K1P1 for about .5" or length needed where the two ribbed pieces slightly overlap, then bind off. Now overlap these two panels and hand sew together at sides, making sure there is enough ease left where leash can easily come through.

Now...begin to knit!

Collar:

Loosely cast on “Collar” stitches determined above. Using magic loop method or DPN, connect to knit in the round, K1P1 entire round. Continue in ribbing until collar is desired length.

Body:

Now time to begin the body. If you are switching colours, now is the time. Place marker and knit one round evenly.

Next round: K1, increase 1 (your desired increase method) Knit entire round until last stitch, increase 1.

Next round: Knit entire round.

Continue increasing on *every other round* until you have reached the “Final Ribcage stitches” that you calculated above.

Now is a good time to try the sweater on your dog. Determine if the length is to your dog’s front legs. If so, now is the time to add sleeve holes. If you have not come to the beginning of your dog’s legs yet, continue to knit until so.

Sleeve Holes:

Knit **HALF** the amount of “Between the Leg Stitches”

Now bind off **HALF** the number of stitches calculated in “Final Sleeve Stitches” above.

Continue knitting until you have reached: **HALF** “Final Sleeve stitches” + **HALF** “Between Leg stitches” from end of row. Now bind off **HALF** “Final Sleeve Stitches.” Knit to end of row.

On next round, knit until you have come to the sleeve. Cast on **HALF** “Final Sleeve stitches”. Continue knitting until you come to the next sleeve and repeat.

Remainder of Body:

Continue knitting in the round until you have come to the beginning of your dog's belly or desired length.

Now you will bind off the belly area: knit passed the area aligned w/ the first sleeve and around the back, until you have reached the same stitch that is aligned with the outside of the second sleeve. Now begin to bind off and continue binding off until you have reached the stitch that is aligned w/ the outside of the first sleeve, remove marker. (Basically, you have just bound off the entire belly area).

From this point you will be knitting flat.

Next round: Purl

Next round: Slip 1, K2tog, Knit until 3 before last stitch, K2tog, Slip 1

Continue these last two rows until you have reached the desire length. Do not cast off.

Bottom Border:

With active stitches, switch colours if necessary and knit until you reach the end of active stitches. Now pick up stitches across the entire side, place marker where side meets belly, pick up stitches across belly, place marker where side meets belly, pick up stitches across side.

Next round: K1, P1 until two stitches before first marker, Decrease 1, slide marker, cont in ribbing until next marker, slide marker, Decrease 1, knit.

Next round: Continue in ribbing.

Repeat these two rounds until desired length. Each decrease round will upset the rib pattern, but just continue w/ two K or two P next to one another until next round. When at desired length, bind off loosely.



Sleeves:

Pick up “ Final Sleeve Stiches” around sleeve hole. K1P1. Continue ribbing until desired length and bind off loosely.

Finishing:

Weave in all ends. Block if desired and present it to the pup!

Photos below are just a very few of the loving street dogs cared for by Street Dog Care, Kathmandu.



Blind Mommy & Andrea



Susi



Junxjup, Jack, & Luna



Puppy, being treated for massive head wound



Fluffy Before



Fluffy After



Doctors and volunteers treating Brownie on the street w/ local onlookers.



Oro, post spay, being pet by a volunteer and maybe thinking she is in Heaven.

-----*Travelling Tree Designs, 2011*-----