

Crochet Capybara

PATTERN

A sleepy caramel capybara in a cream sweater and scarf, holding a tiny heart mug - worked almost entirely in single crochet.



The finished Cozy Capybara, about 9 in (23 cm) tall, sitting.

Finished size	About 9 in (23 cm) tall, sitting	Skill level	Easy - confident beginner
Time	About 6-8 hours	Terms	US crochet terms

This placid little capybara is built from simple parts: a rounded body and head, a broad oval muzzle, tiny ears, arms and feet, then a cream sweater, scarf and heart mug to dress it up. Everything is worked in single crochet in continuous rounds - mark the first stitch of every round and check your counts as you go. The sweater slips over the body BEFORE the head is sewn on, so work the outfit pieces in the order given.

Materials

- Worsted (#4) acrylic yarn in **medium caramel brown** - approx. 150 yds (body, head, ears, arms)
- Worsted (#4) yarn in **dark brown** - approx. 40 yds (muzzle, feet, coffee)
- 3.5 mm (US E-4) crochet hook
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Worsted (#4) yarn in **cream** - approx. 80 yds (sweater, scarf, mug)
- Small amount of **rust red** yarn (heart)
- Yarn needle, scissors, stitch markers
- Black embroidery floss or thread (face)

Abbreviations (US Terms)

MR	magic ring	ch	chain
sl st	slip stitch	sc	single crochet
dc	double crochet	hdc	half double crochet
inc	increase - 2 sc in one stitch	dec	decrease - sc2tog
BLO	back loop only	FO	fasten off
st(s)	stitch(es)	rnd	round

Size & gauge: worsted (#4) yarn with a 3.5 mm hook gives a finished capybara of about 9 in (23 cm) tall, sitting. Gauge is not critical for a plush, but stitches must be tight enough that no fiberfill shows through - if you crochet loosely, drop to a 3.0 mm hook. For a bigger plush, use bulky yarn and a 5.0 mm hook with the same counts.

The Body (caramel brown)



Step 1 - the pear-shaped body and the round head, crocheted and stuffed.

Worked in continuous rounds from the bottom up. Stuff the body firmly as the opening narrows at Rnd 17, before the decreases close it.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. **[12]**

Rnd 3: (Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[18]**

Rnd 4: (Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[24]**

Rnd 5: (Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[30]**

Rnd 6: (Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[36]**

Rnds 7-14: Sc in each st around (8 rounds). **[36]**

Rnd 15: (Sc in next 4 sts, dec) 6 times. **[30]**

Rnd 16: Sc in each st around. **[30]**

Rnd 17: (Sc in next 3 sts, dec) 6 times. **[24]**

Rnd 18: (Sc in next 2 sts, dec) 6 times. **[18]**

Rnd 19: (Sc in next st, dec) 6 times. **[12]**

Rnd 20: Dec 6 times. Fasten off and weave the tail through the last round to close. **[6]**

The Head (caramel brown)

A plain round ball - the face is added later. Stuff firmly before Rnd 13.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. **[12]**

Rnd 3: (Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[18]**

Rnd 4: (Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[24]**

Rnd 5: (Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[30]**

Rnds 6-10: Sc in each st around (5 rounds). **[30]**

Rnd 11: (Sc in next 3 sts, dec) 6 times. **[24]**

Rnd 12: (Sc in next 2 sts, dec) 6 times. **[18]**

Rnd 13: (Sc in next st, dec) 6 times. **[12]**

Rnd 14: Dec 6 times. Fasten off and close. **[6]**

The Muzzle (dark brown)



Step 2 - the broad flat oval muzzle.

The muzzle is worked as a flat oval around a starting chain. Keep it flat - it is stuffed only very lightly with a pinch of fiberfill as you sew it to the lower front of the head.

Rnd 1: Ch 7. Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 4 ch, 3 sc in the last ch; working down the other side of the chain: sc in next 4 ch, 2 sc in the last ch. **[14]**

Rnd 2: 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, (2 sc in next st) 3 times, sc in next 4 sts, (2 sc in next st) 2 times. **[20]**

Rnd 3: (Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st), sc in next 4 sts, (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) 3 times, sc in next 4 sts, (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) 2 times. **[26]**

Rnd 4: Sc in each st around. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. **[26]**

The Ears (make 2, caramel brown)



Step 3 - two small round ears with spiral centers.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: (Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) 3 times. **[9]**

Rnd 3: Sc in each st around. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. **[9]**

Flatten each ear gently with your fingers. Do not stuff. Sew them to the top sides of the head during assembly.

Arms (make 2, caramel brown) & Feet (make 2, dark brown)



Step 4 - two arms and two round feet.

Arms:

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: (Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) 3 times. **[9]**

Rnds 3-6: Sc in each st around (4 rounds). Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. **[9]**

Stuff only the base of each arm lightly; the tips stay soft.

Feet:

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. **[12]**

Rnd 3: (Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) 6 times. **[18]**

Rnd 4: Sc in each st around. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. **[18]**

Stuff lightly. Sew the feet to the front bottom of the body with the spiral side facing forward.

The Sweater (cream)



Step 5 - the sweater, scarf and heart mug, ready to dress the plush.

The sweater is an open tube that slips over the body - make it now and dress the body BEFORE you sew the head on.

Set-up: Ch 36. Join with a sl st to the first ch to form a ring, careful not to twist the chain. **[36]**

Rnds 1-3: Sc in the BACK LOOP ONLY of each st around (bottom rib). **[36]**

Rnds 4-10: Sc in each st around. **[36]**

Rnds 11-12: Sc in the BACK LOOP ONLY of each st around (neck rib). Fasten off and weave in the ends. **[36]**

The Scarf (cream)

Worked flat, in rows. After Row 3, add the fringe: cut strands of cream yarn about 4 in long; for each short end, fold 3 strands in half, pull the loop through an edge stitch with your hook, and draw the ends through the loop to knot. Trim the fringe even.

Row 1: Ch 41. Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across, ch 1, turn. **[40]**

Rows 2-3: Sc in the BACK LOOP ONLY of each st across. Fasten off after row 3. **[40]**

The Mug (cream) & Heart (rust red)

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. **[12]**

Rnd 3: Sc in the BACK LOOP ONLY of each st around (turns the base). **[12]**

Rnds 4-5: Sc in each st around. Fasten off and weave in the end. **[12]**

Coffee insert (dark brown):

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. **[12]**

Sew the disc inside the mug, just below the rim.

Handle: Ch 6. Sl st both ends of the chain to the side of the mug, one near the rim and one near the base, to form a loop handle. Secure the ends inside.

Heart: Into a magic ring: ch 2, 3 dc, 3 hdc, ch 1, 1 dc, ch 1, 3 hdc, 3 dc, ch 2, sl st into the ring. Pull the ring tight, fasten off and sew the heart flat to the front of the mug.

Face & Assembly



Step 6 - the finished capybara, dressed and assembled.

- 1. Head:** sew the head securely to the top of the body, centred and facing forward. Add extra stitches around the neck join until it does not wobble.
- 2. Muzzle:** pin the muzzle to the lower front of the head. Whipstitch it down, tucking a small pinch of fiberfill underneath as you go so it sits proud of the face.
- 3. Mouth:** with black floss, embroider a short vertical line down from the top centre of the muzzle, splitting at the bottom into a Y. Add two tiny nostril dots above it.
- 4. Eyes:** embroider two closed, curved sleeping eyes (relaxed downward arcs) above the muzzle. Add a tiny rust-red blush stitch under each eye if you like.
- 5. Ears:** sew the flattened ears to the top sides of the head, angled slightly outward.
- 6. Dress:** slip the sweater over the body (it must go on now, before or just after the head is attached - never force it over the head). Sew the arms to the sides of the body, over the sweater, angled forward.
- 7. Feet:** sew the feet to the front bottom of the body, spiral sides facing forward.
- 8. Scarf & mug:** wrap the scarf around the neck and let the fringed ends fall at the front. Sew the mug between the paws so it is held in front, and weave in every end.

Finishing & Care

- Roll the plush gently between your palms to even out the stuffing, and reshape the muzzle with your fingers.
- Spot clean with a damp cloth, or hand wash cold and dry flat, reshaping while damp.
- Safety note: the embroidered face makes this plush suitable for little ones, but always check seams before giving it to a baby, and supervise play.

3 Tips for a Perfect Capybara

1. Stuff firmer than feels necessary. The plush settles over its first week of hugs, and firm stuffing gives your capybara a flat, stable sitting base.

2. Pin every part before you sew. Pin the muzzle, check it from the front and both sides, and nudge it a few stitches at a time before you sew - placement makes the capybara.

3. Dress the plush in the right order. Sweater before head, arms over the sweater, scarf after the head, and the mug absolutely last - sewn between the paws once everything else is placed.

Happy crocheting! One capybara is calm - a little herd of them on a shelf is pure serenity.