Crochet Dog Sweater Pattern

Free Step-by-Step Tutorial



Beginner-friendly | ~1 weekend | Fits a small dog (chest 40 cm / 16 in)

Materials

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in forest green, approx. 200 g / 340 m
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in cream, approx. 50 g
- 5.5 mm (US I-9) crochet hook
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Tape measure
- 4 stitch markers

Abbreviations

- ch = chain
- sc = single crochet
- hdc = half double crochet
- BLO = back loop only
- sl st = slip stitch
- st(s) = stitch(es)
- rep = repeat

Step 1: Measure Your Dog and Chain the Foundation



- Measure your dog's neck loosely, then measure around the widest part of the chest, just behind the front legs.
- With forest green yarn, ch 36, then sl st into the first ch to join into a ring. Do not twist the chain. [36 sts]
- A chain of 36 gives a collar of about 25 cm (10 in). If the neck is over 27 cm, add 6 ch; if under 23 cm, take 6 ch away.
- Mark the join with a stitch marker so you can always find the start of the round.

Step 2: Crochet the Ribbed Turtleneck Collar



- Rounds 1-6: Ch 2 (counts as the first st), hdc in the back loop only of each st around, sl st to join. [36 sts in every round]
- Working in the back loop only stacks the stitches into stretchy ribs, so the collar hugs the neck without strangling it.
- After 6 rounds the collar measures about 6 cm (2.5 in) tall. Fold the top edge down once to check the soft turtleneck look.

Step 3: Shape the Body of the Dog Sweater



- Round 7: Ch 2, rep *hdc in the next 5 sts, 2 hdc in the next st* around. [42 sts]
- Round 8: Hdc in each st around. [42 sts]
- Round 9: Rep *hdc in the next 6 sts, 2 hdc in the next st* around. [48 sts]
- Rounds 10-13: Hdc in each st around in forest green. [48 sts in every round]
- The two increase rounds shape the sweater over the shoulders and chest. The fabric should lie flat, not ruffle.

Step 4: Make the Leg Holes



- Round 14: Hdc 8, ch 6 and skip 6 sts (first leg hole), hdc 12, ch 6 and skip 6 sts (second leg hole), hdc 16. [36 hdc + 12 ch = 48 sts]
- Round 15: Hdc in each st and in each ch around. [48 sts]
- Place a stitch marker at each leg hole so you can find them again for the cuffs.
- The holes should sit about 10 cm (4 in) apart, centred on the chest. If they look too close or too far apart, adjust the 8 / 12 / 16 spacing.

Step 5: Add the Cream Stripes and the Belly Band



- Rounds 16-17: Hdc around in forest green. [48 sts]
- Rounds 18-19: Join cream yarn and hdc around for two rounds - your first cream stripe. [48 sts]
- Round 20: Join forest green again and hdc around. [48 sts]
- Rounds 21-22: Join cream yarn and sc around for two rounds to make the belly band. [48 sc]
- Fasten off and weave in the cream ends. Carry unused yarn up the inside instead of cutting it at every colour change.

Step 6: Finish the Leg Cuffs and Try It On



- Join forest green yarn at one leg hole.
- Rounds 1-2: Sc in each st around the hole. [12 sc] Sl st to join. Repeat for the second leg hole.
- Weave in every remaining end with the yarn needle.
- Slip the sweater over your dog's head, guide each front leg through its hole, and smooth the body down its back.
- The sweater should end just before the back legs. Check the fit as your dog walks, sits and lies down: the leg holes must not pinch and the collar must stay put.
- Your handmade dog sweater is ready to wear!

Tips

- Measure twice, crochet once: a sweater 2 cm too small will not go over your dog's head, and one 2 cm too big will slide sideways on walks.

- Use washable yarn: dogs roll in things, so pick a machine-washable acrylic or cotton blend for muddy walks.

- Try the sweater on at the leg-hole stage, not only at the end: fixing the hole spacing mid-project takes two minutes.