Crochet Dog Sweater Pattern

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A warm, simple dog sweater worked from the neck down: a ribbed collar, a tube body with two leg holes, and a back flap that covers the back and stays short under the belly so it stays clean outside. There is no sewing and no sleeves, so it goes on and off easily.

It comes in two sizes, small and medium, and works up in an evening or two in worsted acrylic that can go in the washing machine.



The dog sweater in mustard worsted yarn.

Pattern at a glance

- **Skill level:** easy (hdc in joined rounds and rows, front and back post double crochet)
- **Size S:** neck 11.1 in / 28 cm, chest 14.8 in / 38 cm, back length about 10.8 in / 27 cm; yarn about 91 yd / 83 m
- **Size M:** neck 12.9 in / 33 cm, chest 18.5 in / 47 cm, back length about 14.4 in / 37 cm; yarn about 154 yd / 141 m
- **Yarn:** worsted (aran / 4) acrylic
- **Hook:** 5 mm (US H/8)
- **Gauge:** 13 hdc x 10 rounds = 4 in / 10 cm
- **Time:** about 4 hours (S) to 6 hours (M)

Measure your dog

- **Neck:** around the base of the neck, where a collar sits.
- **Chest:** around the widest part, just behind the front legs. Pick the size whose chest is about 1 in / 2.5 cm bigger than your dog's chest.
- **Back length:** from the base of the neck to the base of the tail.

Abbreviations (US terms)

• **ch** chain · **sk** skip · **sl st** slip stitch · **sc** single crochet · **hdc** half double crochet · **hdc inc** 2 hdc in one stitch · **hdc2tog** hdc decrease · **fpdc / bpdc** front / back post double crochet

Before you start

• Each round starts with ch 1 (it does not count) and is joined with a sl st to the first hdc. The start of the round is at the middle of the belly.

• The leg-hole round has two chain gaps. In the next round you work hdc into each chain.

• Try it on your dog after the leg holes. Add rounds before the back flap for a longer chest, or rows to the flap for a longer back.

The pattern

Size S

Color: start with A (mustard).

Ch 36 and join. Rounds 2 to 5 are the ribbed collar.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** Hdc around. (36)
- [ ] **Rnds 2–5:** (fpdc, bpdc) ×18. (36)
- [ ] **Rnd 6:** (5 hdc, hdc inc) ×6. (42)
- [ ] **Rnd 7:** 3 hdc, hdc inc, (6 hdc, hdc inc) ×5, 3 hdc. (48)
- [ ] **Rnd 8:** Hdc around. (48)
- [ ] **Rnd 9:** 6 hdc, ch 6, sk 6, 24 hdc, ch 6, sk 6, 6 hdc. (48)
- [ ] **Rnds 10–15:** Hdc around. (48)

Finish: Ch 36 and join into a ring without twisting; R9 makes the two leg holes.

Color: start with A (mustard).

Now work in rows over the back only and leave the belly stitches unworked.

- [ ] **Row 1:** 33 hdc, leave 15 unworked. (33)
- [ ] **Rows 2–7:** Ch 1 turn, hdc across. (33)
- [ ] **Row 8:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 29 hdc, hdc2tog. (31)
- [ ] **Row 9:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 27 hdc, hdc2tog. (29)
- [ ] **Row 10:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 25 hdc, hdc2tog. (27)
- [ ] **Row 11:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 23 hdc, hdc2tog. (25)
- [ ] **Row 12:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 21 hdc, hdc2tog. (23)

Finish: Join the yarn in the 8th st of the last round (7 sts after the start of the round), so the 15 sts left for the belly are centered under the tummy; after R12 work sc evenly around the whole lower edge and FO.

Size M

Color: start with A (mustard).

Ch 42 and join. Rounds 2 to 5 are the ribbed collar.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** Hdc around. (42)
- [ ] **Rnds 2–5:** (fpdc, bpdc) ×21. (42)
- [ ] **Rnd 6:** (6 hdc, hdc inc) ×6. (48)
- [ ] **Rnd 7:** 3 hdc, hdc inc, (7 hdc, hdc inc) ×5, 4 hdc. (54)
- [ ] **Rnd 8:** (8 hdc, hdc inc) ×6. (60)
- [ ] **Rnd 9:** Hdc around. (60)
- [ ] **Rnd 10:** 8 hdc, ch 7, sk 7, 30 hdc, ch 7, sk 7, 8 hdc. (60)
- [ ] **Rnds 11–20:** Hdc around. (60)

Finish: Ch 42 and join into a ring without twisting; R10 makes the two leg holes.

Color: start with A (mustard).

Now work in rows over the back only and leave the belly stitches unworked.

- [ ] **Row 1:** 42 hdc, leave 18 unworked. (42)
- [ ] **Rows 2–10:** Ch 1 turn, hdc across. (42)
- [ ] **Row 11:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 38 hdc, hdc2tog. (40)
- [ ] **Row 12:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 36 hdc, hdc2tog. (38)
- [ ] **Row 13:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 34 hdc, hdc2tog. (36)
- [ ] **Row 14:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 32 hdc, hdc2tog. (34)
- [ ] **Row 15:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 30 hdc, hdc2tog. (32)

☐ **Row 16:** Ch 1 turn, hdc2tog, 28 hdc, hdc2tog. (30)

Finish: Join the yarn in the 10th st of the last round (9 sts after the start of the round), so the 18 sts left for the belly are centered under the tummy; after R16 work sc evenly around the whole lower edge and FO.



On the dog: collar up, back flap over the back, belly short.

Finishing

Join the yarn at the side of the flap and work sc evenly around the whole lower edge: about 2 sc in each row end of the flap, 1 sc in each stitch of the last row and 1 sc in each unworked belly stitch. Sl st to the first sc and fasten off. Work one round of sc around each leg hole if you want a neater edge.

Tips

- **Fold-down collar:** work 4 more rib rounds at the start and fold the collar over.
- **Boy dogs:** the belly part is short on purpose; if it still sits too far back, leave 2 more stitches unworked at each side in row 1 of the flap.
- **Stripes:** change color every 2 rounds on the body.

FAQ

My dog is between sizes. Which one?

Go by the chest. If the neck of the bigger size is too loose, work the collar with a hook one size smaller.

Can I use wool?

Yes, but pick a machine-washable one. Acrylic is easier for a sweater that will get wet and muddy.

More winter makes: the ribbed beanie, the beginner scarf and our amigurumi dog.