KNIT FOR REDZONECATS

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF HOMELESS CATS IN THE RED ZONE
CAN YOU HELP?

We are on the look out for knitters to help contribute to making an army of adorable mice toys. These toys will then be sold to the public with all proceeds going towards helping the wonderful work that this organisation does for the homeless cats of Christchurch.

You will find a pattern below, however feel free to let your creative side go wild. They can be knitted in a range of colours, sizes and textures – so odd wool scraps are perfect for knitting these guys! We just ask that you avoid the use of small plastic eyes and stretchy wool to ensure they are safe for play. For the X-factor, stuff them with catnip for maximum joy!

All finished toys can be sent to:

22 Vivian Street
Burwood
Christchurch 8083

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Sal Laban on sal_laban@hotmail.com or contact Red Zone Cats through facebook

Facebook.com/redzonecats

For more ways you can help or to check out the amazing results this organisation has already achieved visit REDZONECATS.org.nz

Mischievous mice

Featured in Prima March 2010

SIZE

Approximately 10cm from nose to tail

MATERIALS

Small amounts of DK yarn
Pair each of 3.75mm and 4mm knitting needles
3.75mm crochet hook (optional)
Washable polyester toy filling

TENSION

22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm square over st-st using 4mm needles.

ABBREVIATIONS

cm centimetres; cont continue; inc increase; k knit; kfb k into front and back of next st; p purl; rem remaining; RS right side; skpo sl 1, k1, pass slipped st over; st(s) stitch(es); st-st stocking stitch; tog together.

Knitting notes

* The mice are worked from nose to tail.

* To make the stripy mouse, work in st-st in alternating 2 row colour stripes, carry the yarn not in use up the side of the work rather than cutting and rejoining yarn for each colour change.

BODY

With 4mm needles, cast on 7 sts, leaving a long yarn end for sewing up. K 1 row. P 1 row. **Next row** (RS) K2, kfb, kfb, k3. 9 sts. P 1 row. **Next row** K3, kfb, kfb, k4. 11 sts. P 1 row. **Next row** K4, kfb, kfb, k5. 13 sts. Cont in this way to inc 2 sts in the centre of every RS row until there are 31 sts. P 1 row. K 1 row. P 1 row. **Next row** K1, [skpo] 7 times, k1, [k2tog] 7 times, k1. 17 sts. P 1 row. **Next row** K1, [skpo] 3 times, k3, [k2tog] 3 times, k1. 11 sts.

P 1 row. Cut yarn, thread through rem sts, pull up and secure.

EARS (make 2)

With 3.75mm needles, cast on 3 sts. **1st row** Kfb, k2. 4 sts. **2nd row** Kfb, p3. 5 sts. **3rd row** Kfb, k4. 6 sts. **4th row** Kfb, p5. 7 sts. **5th row** K. Cut yarn leaving a 10cm end, thread yarn through rem sts, pull up and secure, to form the base of the ear.

Tail

With a crochet hook and leaving a long yarn end, work 24 chains. Thread yarn through the last chain to secure and sew through all 24 chain sts down to the start of the tail. Alternatively, plait 3 ends of yarn together for approximately 10cm for the tail, leaving a yarn end at the end to sew the tail onto the mouse.

TO MAKE UP

Fold the mouse body in half lengthways and join seam, leaving a small gap in the middle. Stuff firmly and close the gap. Sew on the ears and the tail. Wrap contrast coloured yarn several times around the nose of the mouse until it is completely covered. Knot a small piece of yarn above the nose and unravel to create whiskers. Embroider small stitches for the eyes.

Taken from Knitted Toy Tales by Laura Long