

01 Warm Oatmeal Ribbed Ear-Opening Hat

PetsCrochet | Photo-matched, adjustable prototype guide | US crochet terms

Important use note
This is a brief, supervised photo accessory. It is not a tested safety product and must not restrict sight, hearing, breathing or movement.



Visual direction	The oatmeal ribbing gives the simplest version enough texture to read clearly in a photograph.
Stitch direction	Single crochet crown, alternating front-post and back-post half-double-crochet ribs, single-crochet edge.
Why it works	Use this as the featured pattern anchor. A round crown, vertical-looking rib texture and a plain finished edge give you fewer details to troubleshoot while you learn how your pet's head shape affects the fit.
Variation	If the ridges look too deep, replace the post-stitch body with half-double crochet through the third loop. The silhouette stays similar but feels softer.

Head and Ear-Spacing Worksheet

Measure	How to measure	Your number
H - head circumference	Around the head above the eyes and behind the ears.	_____ cm
E - ear center spacing	Center of one ear to center of the other.	_____ cm
O - opening width	Widest part of the ear plus only comfortable clearance.	_____ cm
D - front depth	Crown center to the edge that stays above the eyes.	_____ cm
s / r - gauge	Stitches and rows measured across a 10 cm swatch.	___ s / ___ r

Useful calculations: target crown diameter is approximately $H / 3.14$. Opening stitches are approximately $O \times s / 10$. Ear spacing stitches are approximately $E \times s / 10$. Round the numbers only after checking the placement on the real pet.

Materials

- Smooth washable oatmeal DK cotton or cotton blend
- 3.5 mm crochet hook as a starting point
- Yarn needle, soft tape measure, stitch marker and scissors

Pattern note: Main pattern anchor. Prototype the ear-opening round on the actual pet before fixing the final stitch count.

Construction

Warm Oatmeal Ribbed Ear-Opening Hat | Work from your measured worksheet, not the photograph.

Step-by-step method

- 1 Measure the pet's head circumference (H), ear center spacing (E), widest ear width (O) and desired front depth (D). Record the actual numbers on the worksheet before choosing a size.
- 2 Make a 10 cm swatch in the main stitch. Record stitches per 10 cm (s) and rows per 10 cm (r). Use the swatch to calculate stitch counts instead of copying a generic breed size.
- 3 For a round crown, calculate the target crown diameter as $H / 3.14$. Begin with 6 single crochet in a magic ring and increase evenly until the crown reaches the measured diameter and sits above the eyes.
- 4 Work the body in the listed stitch until the hat reaches the ear line. Mark the center of each ear position using E and the opening width O. Keep the marks level on both sides.
- 5 At the opening round, work to the first marker, chain the number of stitches needed for O, skip the same number of stitches, continue to the second marker and repeat. On the next round, work into each chain space and reinforce both edges with compact single crochet.
- 6 Continue the body to the measured front depth D. Stop before the eye line. Add the listed edging or brim only after checking that the plain hat already fits comfortably.
- 7 Fasten off and weave every tail through several dense stitches. Stretch the fabric gently, inspect the openings and test the finished piece for loose loops before placing it on the pet.

Design-specific finish

Build a measured round crown, switch to alternating raised ribs for the body, then create two marked openings at the ear line. Finish with one soft single-crochet edge. The brim should stop above the eyes, not sit over the eyebrows.

Variation: If the ridges look too deep, replace the post-stitch body with half-double crochet through the third loop. The silhouette stays similar but feels softer.

Final Fit and Finish Check

- [] Both ears move naturally through the openings without compression.
- [] The front edge stays above the eyes during a normal head turn and downward look.
- [] The nose, mouth, whiskers, throat and breathing path are completely clear.
- [] All tails are woven in, the fabric has no loose loops and the edge cannot catch a claw.
- [] The pet remains relaxed. Remove the item at the first stress cue.
- [] The physical sample is washed, dried and checked again before reuse.

Design-specific safety note: Keep the front edge above the eyes and remove the hat immediately if the dog paws at it, freezes or repeatedly shakes its head.

Before You Publish

Photographs can show a beautiful direction, but they cannot prove the stitch count, yarn content or fit. Crochet the sample, record the real yarn and gauge, wash it, and fit-check it on the intended pet before calling this design tested. Until then, keep the wording prototype-ready and inspiration-focused.

This guide is an original PetsCrochet photo-matched draft. It is not a veterinary, behavior or safety substitute.