

Easy Crochet Pet Sweater

02 | Charcoal Textured Golden Retriever Sweater



PHOTO MATCH

Charcoal gray with subtle lighter flecks and a dark ribbed neck.

Best for: larger dogs that need a warm-looking but flexible layer.

PROTOTYPE NOTES

A larger, dense pullover with vertical ribbing that adds visual texture without separate decorations or loose surface loops.

This guide is a measured starting point. Replace estimated yarn, gauge and measurements after a physical sample is tested.

SAFETY GATE: Keep the neck, chest, forelegs, tail and underside comfortable. Use only under supervision, remove at the first sign of stress or overheating, and never attach a leash to the sweater.

Sizing and measurements

SIZE	CHEST	NECK	BACK	LEG OPENING
Small	30-40 cm / 12-16 in	20-27 cm / 8-10.5 in	20-28 cm / 8-11 in	5-6 cm / 2-2.5 in
Medium	40-56 cm / 16-22 in	27-36 cm / 10.5-14 in	28-38 cm / 11-15 in	6-8 cm / 2.5-3 in
Large	56-76 cm / 22-30 in	36-48 cm / 14-19 in	38-50 cm / 15-20 in	8-10 cm / 3-4 in

Use the chest range as the starting point, then adjust the neck and back separately. Finished chest ease should be confirmed on a sample, not guessed from the photograph.

Materials and gauge

- Machine-washable medium-weight yarn, approximately 100 g Small, 150 g Medium or 220 g Large. Record the actual brand and yardage after testing.
- 5 mm crochet hook as a starting point; change hook size to match the fabric, not just the label.
- Tapestry needle, stitch markers, scissors and a soft measuring tape.
- Gauge target: 14 half-double crochet stitches x 10 rows = 10 x 10 cm after a light wash and flat dry.

Abbreviations: ch = chain, sc = single crochet, hdc = half-double crochet, sl st = slip stitch, BLO = back loop only.

Care: Follow the yarn label. Wash gently in cool water, press out moisture without wringing, reshape flat and dry completely. Inspect for stretched stitches, loose ends and rubbing after every wash.

Measured construction

This photo-matched guide uses measurement checkpoints so you can work with the real pet rather than relying on a universal breed label. The row counts are intentionally secondary to the measurements because yarn, coat and tension change the finished garment.

- 1 Measure the pet while standing naturally. Record neck circumference, chest circumference behind the forelegs, back length from the base of the neck to just before the tail and the comfortable foreleg opening. Choose the closest starting size, then keep the actual measurements beside you.
- 2 Make a 10 x 10 cm swatch in the stated stitch using the yarn and hook you plan to use. The starting gauge is 14 half-double crochet stitches by 10 rows in 10 cm. Change the hook before changing the fit formula.
- 3 Work the neck ribbing in turned rows of single crochet through the back loop. Join the short ends into a ring only after checking that the ring reaches the measured neck with comfortable ease and does not press into the throat.
- 4 Work the body from the neck edge in dense half-double crochet. Add or remove increase rounds until the fabric reaches the measured chest area without pulling behind the forelegs. Try the piece on briefly and keep the pet calm.
- 5 Create the foreleg openings at the marked positions using compact chain spaces or short skipped sections. On the next round, work into the chain space with the same stitch height so the edge stays closed and smooth.
- 6 Continue the back section until the hem reaches the planned back length. Stop before the tail base and leave the belly clear enough for normal toileting. Finish with one flat single-crochet round unless the design notes say to use a contrast edge.
- 7 Apply the photographed finish: Use charcoal throughout, or blend two close gray shades for a quiet tweed effect. Do not add a bulky high collar; large dogs still need a relaxed throat opening. Fasten off and bury every tail through several centimeters of dense fabric. Do not trim an end until it has been secured and gently tug-tested.

Design-specific finishing

Use charcoal throughout, or blend two close gray shades for a quiet tweed effect. Do not add a bulky high collar; large dogs still need a relaxed throat opening.

Finishing checklist

- Every end is woven through dense fabric in more than one direction and trimmed only after a gentle tug test.
- The neckline lies flat and allows two fingers of ease without pressing on the throat.
- Both foreleg openings are smooth, symmetrical enough for movement and free from snagging loops.
- The back hem stops before the tail base and the underside remains clear for toileting.
- The sample has been washed, dried flat, measured again and tried on under supervision.



The flat-lay reference shows the same photographed design in three starting sizes. Use it as a proportion reference, then use the measurement table for the actual pet.