Animal Shelter Cat Blanket: Rectangular Crochet Guide



Prepared November 4, 2026 | Untested guide
Reference sizing and sample checks are explained inside.

Status, terms and use

Version 1.0 | November 4, 2026 | Prototype-ready, untested guide. No independent crochet, wash, felting, fit or animal-use test has been completed. Finished photographs are references, not proof of testing. Neither design has stuffing, a hidden insert, rigid support, fringe or ties. Do not add buttons, bells, loose appliques or dangling yarn.

US terms: ch chain; st stitch; sl st slip stitch; sc single crochet; hdc half double crochet; BLO back loop only. Hdc: yarn over, insert hook, draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through all three loops. Sc: insert, draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through both loops. Sl st: draw yarn through the anchor and working loop. Work into both top loops unless BLO is specified.

Inspect both faces, edges and buried tails before considered use and after cleaning. Remove the item if yarn loosens, loops snag claws, fabric is chewed or sections come apart. Lay it flat with access clear, without draping it over or wrapping it around the cat. A textile mat has no verified nonslip backing: assess it on the intended surface and remove it if it shifts or bunches. Let the cat choose whether to use it. No guaranteed acceptance or warmth performance is claimed.

Materials, measurements and numbering

Source starting point: medium-weight number 4 yarn and 5.5 mm hook, plus yarn needle, scissors, markers and tape. The PDF does not identify fibre or give yarn consumption. Use scraps with compatible thickness and care instructions; do not combine feltable wool with a non-felting fibre if consistent laundering is required. Current shelter approval, fibre choice and care suitability must be checked separately.

The maker’s public listing gives a reference gauge of 7 stitches and 5.5 rows per 2 inches and a planning range of 150-200 yards (137-183 m). These are external listing references, not measured consumption or verified gauge for this prepared guide. The uploaded PDF itself gives an approximate finished target of 15 x 18 inches (38.1 x 45.7 cm) with permission to continue to the desired length.

The input labels the foundation chain as R1 and its first hdc row as R2. Therefore source R2-R43 are 42 FABRIC rows, not 43. This guide labels those fabric rows 1-42. At 48 hdc each, that is 2016 hdc before the border. Counted rows do not guarantee an 18-inch length. At the listing gauge, 48 stitches are about 13.7 inches before edging and 42 rows about 15.3 inches; a sample may need more rows to reach the intended finished target.

Make a swatch at least 18 hdc wide and 16 rows high. Measure a central area relaxed after intended sample cleaning. Record stitches and rows per cm and border depth. Check with the intended shelter before choosing size, fibre, edging and care; requirements vary. The reference is not universal donation approval.

Foundation and all fabric rows

Use one strand of compatible number 4 yarn. Ch 49 evenly. The extra chain is for the turning height, not a 49th hdc.

Fabric row 1 (source R2): hdc in second chain from hook and in each remaining chain = 48 hdc. Mark the first and last stitch. Ch 1 and turn. The ch-1 does not count.

Fabric rows 2-42 (source R3-R43): hdc in the first actual stitch and each stitch to the end = 48 hdc every row. Ch 1 and turn between rows; do not work into the previous lifting chain. There are 41 repeats after the first row.

At row 42, measure the rectangle relaxed. If your chosen target has not been reached, continue complete 48-hdc rows, recording the final row count. Allow for the border before deciding when to stop. Do not stretch the rectangle to make a target measurement. If it is already too long, remove rows before edging.

Colour changes are optional, not separately sized patterns. The reference photo contains several striped blankets but no exact stripe schedule. Proposed scrap-yarn method: finish a whole row in one colour; on its last hdc pull-through, switch to the next yarn, then ch 1 and turn. Leave enough tail to bury securely in the stitch bodies in more than one direction. Do not rely on an exposed knot or leave floats/loops across the back. Choose your own stripe widths and record them; the photo’s colour placement is not promised.

Single crochet border and finishing

After the final hdc row, omit the usual turn if beginning the border there. Ch 1 (not counted), rotate the work as needed and make one complete sc circuit around the rectangle. In the top and bottom edges start with one sc per available stitch/chain anchor. Work 3 sc in each of the four corner anchors IN TOTAL; do not add three on top of an already-counted corner stitch.

For the row-end sides, use marked corresponding row ends. Start by sampling one sc per row-end, then assess whether that pulls the edge inward. Hdc row height may need a mixture of one and two sc per row-end. Adjust matched left/right placements to keep the edge flat; record the actual sequence and count. The input supplies no fixed row-end ratio or tested total, so no universal perimeter count is claimed. Do not force a curling or rippling border to lie flat by stretching it.

Join the last sc to the first sc with a sl st, fasten and bury the working tail through stitch bodies on the back in more than one direction. Inspect every colour tail and both corners of each stripe. Remove markers, pins and needles. No fringe or separate paw applique is included. The source links to a separate paw video but does not contain its instructions; it is outside this complete plain-blanket route. No missing motif steps have been invented.

Resize, care and donation record

For a proposed custom rectangle, let W and L be the desired finished cm and b the measured depth of your sampled border on one edge. Let g be hdc stitches/cm and r be fabric rows/cm after sample cleaning. Choose N = round((W - 2b) x g) hdc per row; foundation = N + 1 chains. Choose R = round((L - 2b) x r) rows, with at least one row. Work the same plain hdc row and sample border. Re-measure instead of assuming the formula is exact. No stitch multiple is required for plain hdc.

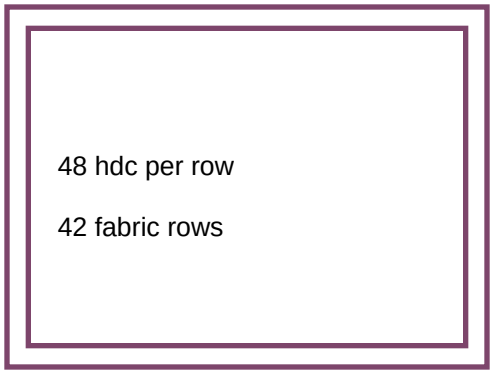
For example only, at hypothetical g=1.25, r=0.9 and b=1 cm, a 38 x 46 cm finished target suggests 45 hdc from ch 46 and about 40 rows. This is an illustrative calculation, not the source gauge or a tested size. The default remains 48 hdc and at least 42 fabric rows, length checked by measurement.

Follow all actual yarn labels and the recipient’s current laundry requirements. Test swatch cleaning first and record dimensional or colour changes. This blanket is not intentionally felted. No claim of universal machine-washability is made, especially for mixed scraps. Confirm whether the shelter wants handmade items, its accepted sizes, yarns, gap limits and delivery arrangements before making a batch or donating. No shelter has been contacted for this project.

Battersea’s current maker guidance cautions against large fabric gaps that can catch paws/claws; it does not approve this individual sample.
https://www.battersea.org.uk/support-us/other-ways-give/make-or-donate-goods

Record yarns/fibres/care____ hook____ sampled gauge____ body stitches/rows____ row-end border placement____ finished cleaned width/length____ colourfastness____ ends/gaps____ recipient requirements/date____ actual yarn use____.

Construction count map



Foundation ch49 is not a fabric row.

Continue length by measurement.

One sc border; 3 sc per corner.

Row-end spacing needs a sample.

EXPLANATORY COUNT MAP / NOT TO SCALE / NOT A TESTED SAMPLE