

Tiny Slugcats



[Image description: Crocheted dolls of Spearmaster, Estranged, and Hunter. Spearmaster is a deep purple and has white eyes; Estranged is a soft turquoise and has black eyes; and Hunter is pink and has black eyes, with a scar through their right eye. All three slugcats have club shaped ears, thick arms with three fingers at the end, noticeable thighs, and feet with two toes each. End description]

This is a free crochet pattern for making your own slugcats, both adult sized and pup sized! This is, however, more of a guide than a set of rules; while this pattern has recommended sizes for adult slugcats and slugpups, it's easy to alter to make a slugcat of your desired size.

Note that as of the pattern's current release, there are no guidelines for making Gourmand or similarly shaped slugcats, sorry! Sizing suggestions for Gourmand are in the works :)

You will need, at minimum:

- A base color yarn
- White or black yarn for the eyes, or whatever other color you want the eyes to be
- Stuffing
- A darning/sewing needle. This is **not** a no sew pattern!

A 4.5mm hook was used for all pieces featured in this pattern, as well as worsted weight (aran/weight 4) yarn. I haven't tested it out on other hook sizes or yarn weights, so keep that in mind if you choose to use different materials.

This pattern uses **US terminology**; US single crochet = UK double crochet. The total number of stitches in a round will be indicated in <angled brackets>.

Abbreviations:

sc: single crochet

tr: treble crochet

CL: cluster stitch. I recommend looking up a tutorial for cluster stitches if you're unfamiliar with this stitch.

inc: increase one stitch to two

dsc: decrease two stitches to one

yo: yarn over

Body

Average adult slugcat

round 1: 6 sc into magic loop <6>

round 2: inc every stitch <12>

round 3: (inc, sc) to end of round <18>

round 4: (sc, inc, sc) to end of round <24>

round 5+: sc into every stitch, for however many rounds is desired. This determines both the height and the chunkiness of the slugcat; for an average adult slugcat, I recommend doing 8 rounds.

round 6: (sc, dsc, sc) to end of round <18>

round 7: (dsc, 4 sc) to end of round <15>

round 8: (sc, inc, 3 sc) to end of round <18>. This should create the constriction of the neck.

round 9: sc, inc, 5 sc, 4 inc, 5 sc, inc, sc <24>. The bunched increases in the middle are to start shaping the nose.

round 10: 3(3 sc, inc), 3 (inc, 3 sc) <30>

round 11: sc into every stitch to end of round <30>

round 12: 10 sc, dsc, sc, 2 dsc, sc, dsc, 10 sc <26>. The nose should look like a little triangular pocket.

round 13: 2(2 sc, dsc), dsc, sc, 2 dsc, sc, dsc, 2(dsc, sc) <18>

round 14: (dsc, sc) to end of round <12>

round 15: (dsc, sc) to end of round <8>. Sew head shut.

Average slugpup

round 1-4: identical to adult

round 5+: For a proportionally chubbier pup, I recommend doing only 4 or 5 rounds of flat increases. More rounds means a taller pup; Estranged, as seen in the image at the top, is approximately 6 rounds tall.

round 6: (dsc, 6 sc) to end of round <21>

round 7: (2 sc, dsc, 3 sc) to end of round <18>. This is the same as the neck constriction for adults, pups are just chunkier.

round 8-14: identical to 9-15 for adult. Sew head shut.

Spearmaster

round 1: 6 sc into magic loop <6>

round 2: inc every stitch <12>

round 3: (inc, sc) to end of round <18>

round 4: (2 sc, inc, 3 sc) to end of round <21>

round 5+: sc into every stitch. For the Spearmaster in the image at the top, I did 8 rounds.

round 6: (2 sc, dsc, 3 sc) to end of round <18>

round 7: (dsc, 4 sc) to end of round <15>

round 8: sc into every stitch <15>

round 9: (sc, dsc, 2 sc) to end of round <12>

round 10: (inc, sc) to end of round <18>
round 11: sc, inc, sc; 4 sc, 4 inc, 4 sc; sc, inc, sc <24>
round 12: inc, 3 sc; 3 sc, inc, 3 sc, 2 inc, 3 sc, inc, 3 sc; inc, 3 sc <30>
round 13: sc in every stitch <30>
round 14: 10 sc, dsc, sc, 2 dsc, sc, dsc, 10 sc <26>
round 15: sc, dsc, 2 sc, dsc, sc, dsc, sc, 2 dsc, sc, dsc, sc, dsc, 2 sc, dsc, sc <18>
round 16: (dsc, sc) to end of round <12>
round 17: dsc, sc) to end of round <8>. Sew head shut.

For all of these, stuff as you go, especially when you get to the neck. Sew the head shut in whatever manner you prefer; if you've seen my other pattern for Mini Iterators, I used the same technique to sew the heads of the slugcats shut. Use whatever method works best for you.

Tail

Average slugcat

round 1: 4 sc into magic loop <4>. This will be a little tight, sorry! Just be careful with your hook.
round 2: (inc, sc) twice <6>
round 3: (sc, inc, sc) twice <8>
round 4: sc in every stitch <8>
round 5: (inc, 3 sc) twice <10>
round 6: sc in every stitch <10>
round 7: (2 sc, inc, 2 sc) twice <12>
round 8: sc in every stitch <12>
round 9: (inc, 5 sc) twice <14>. For a slugpup, end here. For an adult slugcat, proceed to the next rounds.
round 10: sc in every stitch <14>
round 11: (3 sc, inc, 3 sc) twice <16>
round 12: sc in every stitch <16>
round 13: (inc, 7 sc) twice <18>

Of course, you can choose however long of a tail you want your slugcat to have, these are just recommendations. However, I don't recommend going larger than 18 stitches for the base unless you also make the body of your slugcat larger.

Spearmaster

round 1: 6 sc into magic loop <6>
round 2: (inc, 2 sc) twice <8>
round 3: (sc, inc, 2 sc) twice <10>
round 4: sc in every stitch <10>
round 5: (inc, 4 sc) twice <12>
round 6: sc in every stitch <12>
round 7: (2 sc, inc, 3 sc) twice <14>
round 8: (inc, 6 sc) twice <16>
round 9: sc in every stitch <16>
round 10: (3 sc, inc, 4 sc) <18>
round 11 and 12: sc in every stitch <18>

round 13: (dsc, sc) to end of round <12>

round 14: (sc, dsc) to end of round <8>. You should get a somewhat bulb shaped tail.

Once again, stuff as you crochet, taking care to put stuffing in the tip of the tail.

Arms

row 1: chain 1+1, CL

row 2: chain, turn, CL. Bind off. Leave a long yarn tail on both ends for sewing!

Ears

row 1: chain 2+2, 2 tr

row 2: turn, chain 2, 2 tr. Bind off. Fold the ear in half and sew together. Weave your needle in and out under the outermost strand of each exposed V of the stitches, for a total of four stitches; it's a similar technique to how to sew a slugcat's head shut. Tie a knot with the other yarn tail to secure.

Thighs

row 1: chain 3+1, 3 CL

row 2: chain, turn, 1 CL across *all three prior stitches*. In essence, it's like you're doing a double crochet decrease over three stitches. It's kind of hard to explain, I hope this makes sense. The flow would be something like this: yo, insert hook into first stitch, pull up a loop (3 loops on hook), yo, pull through 2 loops (2 loops on hook), yo, insert hook into second stitch, pull up a loop (4 loops on hook), yo, pull through 2 loops (3 loops on hook), yo, insert hook into third stitch, pull up a loop (5 loops on hook), yo, pull through two loops (4 loops on hook), yo, pull through all. Chain to secure. You should end up with a roughly triangular piece of fabric, and that's normal! It will get rounder once you actually sew the thigh on and stuff it.

Feet

row 1: chain 1+2, tr

row 2: sc *without* chaining. Bind off. Leave a long yarn tail on both ends for this as well, since you'll almost definitely need to sew up the foot a bit to make it stiffer.

And by now, you should have everything you need! Seam as sew and needed, but some notes on attaching everything:

- The regular slugcat's head shaping doesn't make the nose very obvious, so you might want to use a stitch marker or a scrap piece of yarn to mark which side is the front to make it easier for you to align everything.
- The ears should be closer to the back of the head than the front. How far back is up to you, but leave enough room for the eyes.
- Thighs should round out as you're sewing them on, provided that you're stuffing them rather generously as you sew. The bottom edge of the thighs should align with roughly the 18 stitch round at the base of the body.
- I recommend sewing on the tail and the ears first to help align the arms and the thighs. The thighs should also be closer to the tail than to each other, but that's up to you!

- Aim to attach the arms roughly straight down relative to where you've sewed on the ears. It should be slightly behind the midway point of the head. I actually attached the arms too far back on Estranged and they look a little weird, but not *that* weird, so don't stress about it too much.
- Attach the feet last, since those just go on the bottom of the thighs. I recommend sewing the feet up a little before attaching them so they don't flop around so much.

Optional but highly recommended: Give your slugcat fingers and toes! This is where the other end of the long yarn tail comes into play, though you'll possibly need other strips of yarn as well. Insert your hook into the end of the arm or the foot, then pull up a loop on your hook with the yarn tail you left. Chain with it to secure, then do another chain before pulling the rest of the yarn tail through. This makes one finger/toe. Repeat with another strip of yarn (or the same yarn tail if you made it long enough). I gave my slugcats two toes and three fingers, but how many you want is entirely up to you.

Eyes and Nose

I opted to embroider all of these on, just because I find it easier to shape things with embroidery. I typically do the nose first to help align the eyes. It's a little hard to describe what I do; I make a horizontal band across one or two stitches, then I double that band, then I come up from underneath and tug the horizontal bands down to make the nose triangular. From there it's just shaping to try to make the nose look right. As long as it's roughly triangular, don't worry about it too much. (It's not even triangular for Estranged and it still looks fine, so.)

As for the eyes:



[Image description: A side view of Estranged with lines that show the nose and eye alignment. The base of the eye aligns with the base of the nose. The eye itself is slanted, making an approximately 45 degree angle with the alignment with the nose. End description]

As shown in the picture, you want to align the eyes so they're slanted, *not* horizontal, relative to the head, and you want the base of the eyes to be aligned with the nose. The exact angle doesn't matter, and you can tilt it to your liking. This specific angle just feels most natural to me. Mark out the approximate area of the eye, whether with pins or just mental markers, and then backstitch a border. Pull your yarn out at one of the 'corners' of the eyes, then pass it back and forth underneath the loops you just backstitched to fill them out. If the shape gets a little wonky, tug them back into place or just adjust the shape with more backstitching. I don't have a set guide for this, it really just depends on what looks good to you.

And now you have your own slugcat! Enjoy your new little friend :)

(Additional note: Estranged is a modded slugcat from the Estranged mod [soon to be Burnout]. If you like their design, I recommend checking them out! The mod is available on the Steam workshop, and also on RainDB.)