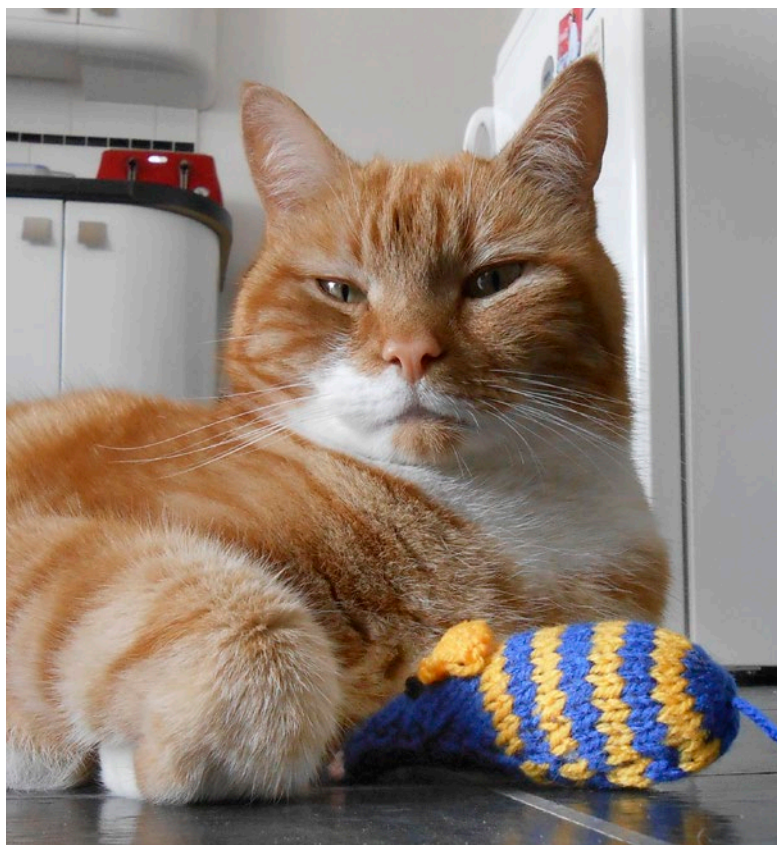# Captain Cat-Battler the Catnip Mouse

The notorious Captain Cat-Battler is a veteran of cat vs mouse conflict. Since the dawn of time, rodents and their feline foe have pitted their wits against one another. Captain Cat-Battler is a handmade hero of mousekind, keeping the cats of the world on their furry toes with his cunning and his defiant squeak. Captain Cat-Battler was originally designed by Lauren O'Farrell for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home – thanks to Lauren and Battersea for generously enabling Cats Protection to use this pattern.

Please send your mice to your nearest Cats Protection branch, shop or adoption centre* to cheer up one of the thousands of cats in our care. Even better, adopt a cat to go with your mouse!
*Details available from www.cats.org.uk or from Cats Protection's Helpline: 03000 12 12 12.

## Gubbins

- 3.5mm knitting needles
- 15g Acrylic DK (body): any colour will do but use of CP's colours (black or blue and yellow) preferred!
- 15g Acrylic DK (body, eye and eye patch): please see comment above about colours
- 15g Pink Acrylic DK (ears, nose and tail)
- Stuffing (innards)
- Small squeaker (optional)
- Catnip pouch (optional)
- Fierce feline-fighting detemination (essential)

## Size

10cm (4") approx. from nosetip to start of tail

**Gauge:** Not important. No one will be wearing him.

## Skills you'll need

- Knitting
- Purling
- Increasing (make 1)
- Basic sewing up
- Very basic embroidery
- Mouse making

## Abbreviations

K = knit

P = purl

M1 = make one (make stitch from yarn between stitches)

# Pattern

## Body

- Cast on 2 stitches in yellow
- Row 1. K across
- Row 2. P across
- Row 3. K, M1, K (3sts)
- Row 4. P across
- Row 5. K, M1, K, M1, K (5 sts)
- Row 6. P across
- Row 7. K, M1, K3, M1, K (7 sts)
- Row 8. P across
- Row 9. K, M1, K5, M1, K (9 sts)
- Row 10. P across
- Row 11. K, M1, K7, M1, K (11 sts)
- Row 12. P across
- Row 13. K, M1, K9, M1, K (13 sts)
- Row 14. P across
- Row 15. K, M1, K11, M1, K (15 sts)
- Row 16. P across
- Row 17. K, M1, K13, M1, K (17 sts)
- Row 18. P across
- Change to blue
- Row 19. K, M1, K15, M1, K (19 sts)
- Row 20. P across
- Change to yellow
- Row 21. K, M1, K17, M1, K (21 sts)
- Row 22. P across
- Change to blue
- Row 23. K, M1, K19, M1, K (23 sts)
- Row 24. P across
- Change to yellow
- Row 25. K, M1, K21, M1, K (25 sts)
- Row 26. P across
- Change to blue
- Row 27. K across
- Row 28. P across
- Change to yellow
- Row 29- 35. Repeat rows 27 and 28 changing from yellow to blue every two rows ending in a yellow knit row
- Row 36. P across in yellow
- Cut about 15cm of yarn
- Thread yarn through remaining stitches and draw tight to make round 'tail end' of mouse.

## Ears x 2

- Cast on 5 sts in pink
- Row 1. K across
- Row 2. P across
- Row 3. K across
- Row 4. P across
- Row 5 K across
- Cut about 10 cm of yarn
- Thread yarn through stitches and draw tight to make round part of ear.
- Darn in yarn end.
- Sew cast on yarn through bottom stitches and draw tight to make lower part of ear.

# Finishing

1  Sew two sides of mouse body together from 'tail end' to 'nose end' (making sure your stripes match up) leaving a hole for stuffing.

2  Insert stuffing (and optional squeaker and catnip) into mouse body. Wrapping squeaker and catnip in stuffing before inserting to make sure they're squidgy and don't make your mouse lumpy.

3  Finish sewing body right up to the tip of the nose.

4  Sew on ears using cast on yarn ends.

5  Embroider nose with pink yarn, running end of yarn through body and out of 'tail end' to form tail.

6  Tie knot at end of tail.

7  Embroider eye and square eyepatch with band. Eyepatch band should run from left ear, across his face to first blue stripe under his chin.

8  Greet your new roguish rodent with a cheery "Yaaaaaaaaaarn, me hearty!" and then launch him towards  the nearest cat.

Cats Protection suggests that when you're knitting a toy or blanket for a feline friend, it's best to avoid the use of stretchy yarns or small plastic items – such as those that can be used for mouse eyes – to reduce the risk of injury. Loose weave blanket patterns involving the use of large needles are probably best avoided too.