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.

**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 determination (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)

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.
**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 “Yaaaaaaaaarn, me hearty!” and then launch him towards the nearest cat.

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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.