

# Little birdie ball cat toy

By Felicity Crafts

Why not have a go at your own crochet little birdie cat toy to personalise playtime with your cat?

Play is important for cats as it helps them to use up some of their energy, keep fit and healthy and keep their brain alert and active. Crafting can also boost your wellbeing, so your handmade little birdie could bring benefits for you both!

You can entertain your own cats with their new toy or share the joy by donating your crochet creation to the cats in our care if you wish.

## Abbreviations

ch	chain stitch
dc	double crochet
st	stitch
sl st	slip stitch
tog	together

dc2tog double crochet 2 stitches together

\* repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed

## You will need:

- a small amount of DK (non-fluffy) yarn
- 4mm hook
- a small amount of toy stuffing
- optional: you can use catnip in the stuffing
- a tiny amount of black yarn for eyes and yellow or orange for the beak



## Round 1:

6dc into a magic ring and sl st to join.

## Round 2:

Ch1 (does not count as st) 2dc into each st around, sl st to join (12dc in total).

## Round 3:

Ch1 (does not count as st) \*starting at st2 do 1dc, then 2dc in st3 and repeat \*. Keep counting until you have 18st. Sl st to join.

Place stitch marker here.

## Rounds 4 and 5:

Ch1 and then 1dc in each stitch around. Sl st to join (18st).

## Round 6: Decrease

Ch1,\*

1dc in next st, dc2tog over next 2st.

Repeat from

\* until you have 12st.

## Round 7:

Dc2tog until you have 6st. Fasten off with a long tail.

Turn and stuff.

Use the tail to gather the end together and sew closed.

Make sure all the stuffing is firmly enclosed. If you leave the tail here you can use it for interactive chase games with your cat.

You could leave ball as it is but if you repeat round one twice you will have two little wings which you can sew to the ball to complete your little birdie toy.

If you are making a bird, use a tiny amount of black to sew on eyes and orange or yellow to sew a beak.

When you finish sewing make sure the ends are threaded back through the body to keep everything safe.

### Important safety advice

Remember, do not use stretchy yarn, yarns that split easily, very fluffy yarns or yarns with sequins or beads.

Use stitches that create a firm fabric, avoid loose weave and drop stitches and don't use very large needles. Make sure all stitching is very secure, sewing in all ends, and don't use plastic eyes.

We suggest you regularly inspect cat toys for signs of wear or damage and recommend supervising cats while they play with knitted toys.

Do not use knitted toys or comforters with cats that have wool-chewing habits.

### How to donate your cat toy

If you'd like to donate your little birdie to help keep the cats in our care occupied, we would be very grateful. You can send your toys to:

Craft for Cats  
National Cat Centre  
Chelwood Gate  
Haywards Heath  
Sussex  
RH17 7TT

Please note that all donations must be posted, and it will not be possible to acknowledge donations. Thanks so much for your support.

### How to keep crafting for cats

Whether you're hooked on crochet or just love trying new things, we've got craft events throughout the year for you to enjoy. Find out more at [cats.org.uk/craftforcats](https://cats.org.uk/craftforcats)

