THE KNIT-FOR-NOWT CROCHET WORRY CAT!

Kindly donated by Ruth Ogilvie-Brown, translated into crochet from knitting by Andrea Kane and Pauline Cooper, (UK Crochet terms)

This is a variation on a "Worry Monster", in that it has a deep pocket for the child to place worry papers in. Please ensure that your pocket is nice & deep, so that it can accommodate several pieces of paper. The body & Head of the Cat are worked in a circular piece.

WHAT YOU NEED:
- **Approx. 400g of Chunky Yarn – use any colour of yarn, it can be plain, striped or a mixture of both, but bright colours are preferred. White looks good for the cat's Muzzle & pink for the Nose. Aran yarn can be used, which will make a slightly smaller cat, but you will need to skip a couple of rows at the top of the body & head to keep the proportions correct. Paintbox Simply Aran works!**
- **Crochet Hooks in Sizes 4.5 & 5mm, depending on your choice of yarn weight.**
- **Fine black yarn or embroidery thread for the whiskers & eyes, or safety eyes make it look GREAT!**
- **A large darning Needle.**
- **Lots of stuffing – this must be approved for toys, & have a BS or CE marking on the packaging.**
- **Please note that no other stuffings may be used, especially not Pillow Stuffing.**
- **The ideal finished size, measured from the top of the head to the bottom of the body should be a minimum of 12", because these items are often used in whole class or group therapy situations, where multiple children may post in their worry papers. It can be taller than that as long as it doesn't exceed 17", so that it will fit our despatch boxes.**

Foundation Ring
Using your 5mm hook & chunky yarn, begin by making a magic ring. Wind yarn twice round your finger and make 6 dc into ring. Pull up tightly on the tail of the yarn to close the centre of the circle.
(If you dislike this method, chain 7, join with a slip-st and work a dc into each of your 6 chains.)

1st Round: 1 Ch 1, this does not count as a stitch here & throughout your work. Beginning with 2nd chain from the hook, work 2 dc into each st to end, joining with a slip-st. (12 sts)
We recommend that you begin now to use a stitch marker, (a safety pin or paperclip will do), to mark the end of each round. Remember to start **every** round with Ch 1, then work into the 2nd stitch from the hook.
NB: If you are making a striped cat, change yarn colour every 3 rows, introduce the new colour when you form the Slip-st at the end of the previous round – it makes for a smoother transition into the new shade you are using.

2nd Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into next stitch) to end. Slip-st into Ch 1. (18sts)
3rd Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into each of next 2 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (24sts)
4th Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into each of next 3 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (30 sts)
5th Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into each of next 4 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch1 (36 sts)
6th Round: Ch 1, (2 dc into next st, 1 dc into each of next 5 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (42 sts)
7th Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into each of next 6 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (48 sts)
8th Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into each of next 7 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (54 sts)
9th Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into each of the next 8 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch1 (60 sts)
10th Round: Ch 1, (2dc into next st, 1 dc into each of the next 9 sts) to end. Slip-st into Ch1 (66 sts)
11th Round & onwards: Ch1, 1 dc into each st to end, keeping your stitch count to 66.

Don't worry if you if you end a round with plus or minus a stitch or two, it's not critical……you are not making socks after all!! Just adjust the count, with an inc. or dec. on your next round.
Continue until work measures 8 inches from the magic ring.

Decrease for Neck, as follows:
1st Round: Ch 1, dc 1, (dc 14, dc 2 tog.) to last st, dc1. Slip-st into Ch 1 (62 sts)
2nd Round: Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
3rd Round: Ch 1, dc 1, (dc 10, dc 2 tog.) to last st. dc 1. Slip-st into Ch1. (58 sts)
4th Round: Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
5th Round: Ch 1, dc 1, (dc 12, dc 2 tog.) to last st. dc 1. Slip-st into Ch 1. (54 sts)
6th Round : Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
7th Round: Ch 1, dc 1, (dc 11, dc 2 tog.) to last st, dc 1. Slip-st into Ch 1. (50 sts)
8th Round: Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
9th Round: Ch 1, (dc 10, dc 2 tog.) to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (46sts)
10th Round: Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
11th & 12th Rounds : Continue as Round 10.

Increase for Head, as follows:
13th Round: Ch 1, dc 1 (dc 10, dc 2 into next st) to last st, dc 1. Slip-st into Ch 1 (50 sts)
14th Round: Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
15th Round: Ch 1, dc 1 (dc 11, dc 2 into next st) to last st, dc1. Slip-st into Ch 1 (54 sts)
16th Round: Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.

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Opening for Mouth
Establish centre front where mouth should be & mark this. 20 or 22 stitches are ideal for the mouth opening, so mark start & finish end of the proposed opening at this point.

17th Round: Ch 1, dc 1 in each st until first mark. Ch 22, then continue dc 1 in each st (from the 2nd mark) until the end of the round. Slip-st into Ch 1.
18th Round: Ch 1, dc 1 in each st right across, working 1 dc into each chain, thus joining up to main part of the work. Take care to ensure that chain is not twisted as you work this part. Slip-st into Ch 1
Work a further 13 rows in dc. Keeping your stitch count to 54.

Decrease for Top of Head, as follows:
32nd Round: Ch 1, (dc 9 , dc 2 tog) repeat to end**.** Slip-st into Ch 1 (50sts)
33rd Round: Ch 1, (dc 8 , dc 2 tog) repeat to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (45 sts))
34th Round: Ch 1, (dc7, dc 2 tog) repeat to end. Slip-st into Ch 1 (41 sts)
35th Round: Ch 1, (dc 6 , dc 2 tog) repeat to end**.** Slip-st into Ch 1 (36 sts)
36th Round: Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
37th Round: Ch 1, (dc 5, dc 2 tog) repeat to end**.** Slip-st into Ch 1 (31 sts)
38th Round: Ch 1, (dc 4 , dc 2 tog) repeat to end**.** Slip-st into Ch 1 (26 sts)
39th Round: : Ch 1, dc to end. Slip-st into Ch 1.
40th Round: Ch 1, (dc 3 , dc 2 tog) repeat to end**.** Slip-st into Ch 1 (23 sts)
41st Round: Ch 1, (dc 2 , dc 2 tog) repeat to end**.** Slip-st into Ch 1 (16 sts)
42nd Round: Ch 1, (dc 1 , dc 2 tog) repeat to end**.** Slip-st into Ch 1 (12 sts)
43rd Round: Ch 1, dc 2 together to end. Fasten off & close the small hole using the yarn tail.

If you are using safety eyes, it's at this stage they need to be fitted to the head, through the mouth opening before the mouth pocket is sewn in place. Also at this stage the body and head are stuffed, again through the mouth opening.

Next sew on mouth pocket as instructed.

Tail
Begin by Dc6 foundation ring
Rnd 1 (Dc2 into next st) 6 times (12) (or for thicker tail make it 15 stitches)
Rnd 2-26 Dc

Arms and Legs
Make 4 the same

Begin by dc6 foundation ring
Rnd 1 (Dc2 into next st) 6 times (12)
Rnd 2 (Dc1, dc2 into next st) 6 times (18)
Rnd 3 (Dc 2, dc2 into next st) 6 times (24)
Rnds 4-7 Dc 4 rounds
Rnd 8 (Dc2, dc2tog) 6 times (18)
Rnd 9 (Dc 6, dc2tog) 3 times (15)
Rnds 10 onwards until measures 6 inches
After stuffing make the paws of the cat more realistic by putting in a few stitches into each paw to divide it into sections.

Mouth Pocket
Chain 22 stitches
(Dc1 into next row) until work measures 12 inches
Cast off

Crochet side and both to form pocket
Sew the mouth pocket to the top and bottom of the mouth opening. Make sure there is no gap at the sides where the stuffing could get through.

Cat's Muzzle:
Make Two
Chain 4
Rnd 1 (Dc1, into next stitch) 4 times (4)
Rnd 2 (Dc2, into next stitch) 4 times (8)
Rnd 3 (Dc1, into next stitch) 8 times (8)
Rnds 4-9 (Dc1, into next stitch) 8 times (8)
Rnd 10 (Dc2tog to end of row (4)
Cast off.
May need small amount of stuffing
Attach each piece to the cats face by sewing them on length wise right about the opening of the cats mouth.

Nose
Chain 4
Rnds 1-2 (Dc1, in next stitch) 4 times (4)
Rnd 3 (Dc2, in next stitch) 4 times (8)
Rnds 4-8 (Dc1, in next stitch) 8 times (8)
Rnd 9 (Dc1, in next two stiches) 4 times (4)
Finish off leaving long thread of yarn.
Thread yarn through stitches and pull gathers tightly.
Stuff slightly
Sew directly onto the cats face directly above the muzzle.

Eyes
Embroider eyes using black thread. Place them close together, gives effective characterful look!
Two wraps of yarn running vertically through the same stitches across two rows. Using more wraps to create bigger eyes will make the cat look cuter. Where the eyes placed changes the character. If you wish you could use safety eyes, which need to be inserted before the stuffing goes in.

Whiskers
Use black thread to embroider whiskers.
Use pink thread to make a few stitches over the join between the two halves of the muzzle.

Ears
Chain 15 (for bigger ears add more chain stitches)
Rnds 1-2 Dc1. (15)
Rnd 3 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (13)
Rnd 4 Dc1 (13)
Rnd 5 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (11)

Rnd 6 Dc1 (11)
Rnd 7 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (9)
Rnd 8 Dc1 (9)
Rnd 9 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2st, Dc2tog (7)
Rnd 10 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (5)
Rnd 12 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (3)
Rnd 13 Dc2tog, 1 st left fasten off

Ear linings
(lighter colour for contrast)
Chain 13 (for bigger ears add more chain stitches)
Rnds 1-2 Dc1. (13)
Rnd 3 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (11)
Rnd 4 Dc (11)
Rnd 5 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (9)
Rnd 6 Dc (9)
Rnd 7 Dc2tog, Dc1 to last 2 st, Dc2tog (7)
Rnd 8 Dc (7)
Rnd 9 Dc2tog, Dc to last 2st, Dc2tog (5)
Rnd 10 Dc2tog, Dc to last 2 st, Dc2tog) (3)
Rnd **11** Dc2tog, 1 st left fasten off

Should be slightly smaller than outer ear.
Sew ear linings onto the ears before sewing the ears onto the cat.

Alternative pattern for ears:

EARS - MAKE TWO
Chain 30 and join into circle with slip stitch
Rnd 1-4 Dc each round
Rnd 5 (Dc 10, dc2tog) twice (22)
Rnd 6 (Dc 9, dc2tog) twice (20)
Rnd 7 (Dc8, dc2tog) twice 18)
Rnd 8 Dc
Rnd 9 (Dc7, dc2tog) twice (16)
Rnd10 (Dc6, dc2tog) twice (14)
Rnd 11 (Dc5, dc2tog) twice (12)
Rnd 12 (Dc4, dc2tog) twice (10)
Rnd 13 (Dc3, dc2tog) twice (8)
Rnd 14 (Dc2, dc2 tog) twice (6)
Rnd 15 (Dc1, dc2tog) twice (4)
Rnd 16 Dc4tog