

CRAFTS/KNITTING \$13.95

Pups on Parade!

QuickKnit Fun for Your Best Friend

PuppyKnits features 12 upbeat knits to dress today's pups in style. Cute everyday sweaters and ritzy doggie's-day-out designs all knit up in a jiffy. High-energy colors, sumptuous yarns, and simple shaping blend sophistication and fun. This spirited collection includes colorful pullovers, adorable jackets, a puppy-soft collar cuff, and even a tie-on hat. Nina Fuller's lively photography of pups-in-action plus Jil Eaton's whimsical drawings make **PuppyKnits** an irresistible gift for any dog lover.

-  12 fast, easy patterns
-  Sensational puppy photography
-  Doggie measuring guide
-  Learn-to-knit primer

JIL EATON is an internationally acclaimed knitwear designer, known for her designs that uniquely blend classic style with an irresistible air of whimsy. She publishes and distributes worldwide a collection of chic and charming hand-knitting patterns under the Minnowknits label. Jil's previous books include *After Dark*, *SimpleChic*, *Minnies*, *Big Fish*, *Little Fish*, *MinnowKnits* and *MinnowKnits, Too*. She lives in Portland, Maine.



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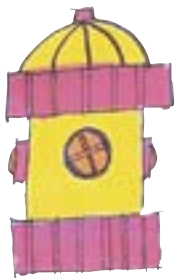
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12 QuickKnit
Fashions for Your
Best Friend



puppyknits

Jil Eaton



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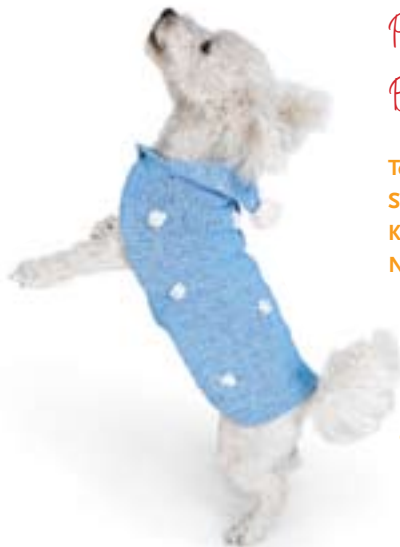
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Woof!

Fido . . . Lassie . . . man's best friend . . . girl's best friend, for that matter. Is there any limit to our pooch love? Is there anything we wouldn't do for our fabulous furry companions? *PuppyKnits* is exactly what today's best-dressed doggies are looking for. Colorful and luxurious, these ultra-chic knits can be whipped up in a flash. When it's cold outside your best friend needs toasty toppers, perfect for peeking out of the carry-all as you gad around town together. Perky and chic, easily knit but with delightful details, these adorable tidbits are enchanting fashion statements for your beloved pets. Remember, when we are knitting, all is right with the world.

Jil Eaton

Jil Eaton
Portland, Maine





The Dog-Gone Idea

The inspiration for *PuppyKnits* came from the streets of New York and Chicago, where dogs are loved and petted and primped, carried and shopped, and always adorned in the best finery. I've published individual patterns for dogs before and they are always popular. Why not, I thought, create an entire collection for the canine set, chic, charming, and complete with buttons and bows, ruffles and fringe? I quickly discovered that we can never knit too much for our petites chiens!

I always use the highest quality yarns available in a rich range of colors, and this collection of doggie knits is no exception. Natural fibers make the best sweaters, as the fibers breathe and felt and wear like iron. The yardage is given both in English and metric, with information on the actual yarns used, to allow you flexibility as you make your own knitting design decisions. Your miniature Pekinese, for instance, may look better in a totally different colorway than on our Daschund. Beautiful yarns make a beautiful project, inside and out, and can never be too good for our precious pooches.

If you are a beginner or even a veteran knitter, here are some of my tried and true ideas for happy knitting adventures. Sometimes the smallest changes in your repertoire will bring harmony to your knitting life, and you'll have more time to walk the dog.





Knitting to Fit

Pooches come in all shapes and sizes. While all the designs in *PuppyKnits* are intended for small dogs, each breed has its own peculiarities. To make sure your finished garment fits comfortably, pay close attention to the following preparatory steps.

GETTING THE GAUGE

The single most important step when beginning any knitting project is to do a gauge swatch. The gauge swatch is a 4"/(10 cm) square, knit in the pattern called for and with the

recommended needle size. Getting the correct gauge, or number of stitches per inch, allows you to make a fabric that is even and smooth, with the correct drape and hand, resulting in the correct size. Any garment that is off-gauge by just one stitch per inch may end up five inches too big or too small for your pup! Experienced knitters may tell you they always knit to gauge—don't believe it. Everyone knits differently with different yarns, needles and patterns. The bottom line is that if you want happy results every time, do your gauge swatch!

Using the needles suggested in the pattern, cast on the correct number of stitches to make a 4"/10 cm swatch, plus six more stitches. Knit three rows. Always knit three stitches



Knitting Kit

A clear zippered case, like those used for cosmetics, is best for the perfect knitting kit. Everything is visible and it's easy to fish out items you need. If you set yourself up with the following items, you have a portable studio, easily stashed in your knitting bag as you change venues or projects.

- 🏠 Small, very sharp scissors, used only for yarn.
- 🏠 Yarn needles: I like the Japanese Chibi needles with bent tips.
- 🏠 Retractable measuring tape.
- 🏠 Yarn T-pins and yarn safety pins for marking or holding dropped stitches.
- 🏠 Stitch holders, both long and short. English Aeros are my favorites, but Japanese holders that are open at either end are also fabulous.

- 🏠 Stitch markers: split-rings are good as they can be easily moved and removed.
- 🏠 Cable needles: I use straight US sizes 3, 6 and 10.
- 🏠 Point protectors, both large and small, to keep your work on the needles.
- 🏠 Needle/gauge ruler—essential.
- 🏠 Crochet hooks: one small, one large
- 🏠 “Dentists tool,” with one hooked end and one smooth end—invaluable.
- 🏠 Pen and small notebook, for notes, figuring and design notes.
- 🏠 Small calculator, which you will use constantly.





want to measure your own puppy's gear and adjust that opening accordingly.

BLOCKING FINISHED PIECES

When you complete a project, cover each piece with two damp towels, one under and one over, pinning the pieces in place. Alternatively, you may pin the pieces to a blocking board, a wonderful invention that is widely available. Lightly steam at the appropriate setting for the yarn you are using, and dry your garment flat on a towel, mesh rack, or on the blocking board. Blocking usually improves the look of your garment, as long as it is gently done.

CARING FOR DOGGIE KNITS

You will want to launder your doggie sweaters, and your gauge swatches are absolutely perfect for testing the washability of a specific yarn, following the yarn label instructions. Most yarns are machine washable, if you put them on a very gentle cycle in tepid water. Place them in a small mesh bag, which allows the garments to hold their shape while getting them really clean. For wool, you should also use a no-rinse sweater soap such as Eucalan, which is available at fine yarn shops as well as on the Internet.

Learn to Knit

This learn-to-knit section takes you through the basic elements of knitting. Although there are many others, I have included only two types of cast-ons, the *knit-on cast-on* and the *cable cast-on*. Once you have mastered the knit-on method, you have actually learned the basic knit stitch. The cable cast-on is a variation on the same stitch and is used to form a sturdy, yet elastic edge.

SLIP KNOT

1. Hold the yarn in your left hand, leaving a short length free. Wrap the yarn from the skein into a circle and bring the yarn from below and up through the center of the circle. Insert the needle under this strand as shown.
2. Pull on both the short and long ends to tighten the knot on the needle.



STEP 1. Slip Knot



STEP 2. Slip Knot





CHENILLE JACKET WITH HOOD
AND POPCORN PUFFS

Popcorn Pup

Soft and cozy, this hooded jacket makes an upbeat style statement while keeping the snow at bay. The chest button and under tummy strap make this petite chic easy to put on and take off.

●●● INTERMEDIATE QUICKKNIT

Finished chest (including straps): 13 (15¼ – 17½)"/
33 (39 – 44.5) cm
Length, neck to tail: 11(12 – 13)"/28 (30.5 – 33) cm

MATERIALS

Worsted weight chenille yarn: 130 (165 – 205) yards/117 (148 – 185) meters in main color (MC)

Faux fur: 30 yards/27 meters in contrast color (CC)

Straight needles: sizes 4 and 6 US (10 and 8 UK; 3.5 mm and 4 mm)

Yarn sewing needle

Stitch holder and markers

¾"/2 cm buttons: two

GAUGE

18 sts and 28 rows = 4"/10 cm over St st pattern using larger needles

✓ Always check gauge to save time and ensure correct yardage. Adjust needle size as necessary (see page 4).

Puppy Profile

NAME: Einstein, age 1

BREED: Bichon Frise

INTERESTS: Dancing to oldies, lamb chops, and hanging around art galleries

STYLE: "I like styles that allow for free movement. Light and lively, never constricting."

Einstein enjoys the ultimate in comfort, wrapped in Berroco's Suede, a new and widely distributed woven chenille, embellished with Chinchilla faux fur. The Popcorn embellishments are done after the knitting is finished; the bobbles require a yarn sewing needle and faux fur.

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