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# Knit Your Own Zoo: Easy-to-Follow Patterns For 24 Animals



## Synopsis

From the authors of the beloved and best-selling Knit Your Own Dog, Knit Your Own Cat, and Knit Your Own Dog: The Second Litter comes Knit Your Own Zoo! With easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions for 24 animals, it's an irresistible guide to knitting a single exotic pet or an entire stuffed menagerie. What could be better than a cuddly koala or a long-necked giraffe to call your own? Knit Your Own Zoo includes patterns for both, as well as a tiger, crocodile, penguin, meerkat, elephant, armadillo, panda, a kangaroo and her joey, and 14 other delightful creatures. The animals are surprisingly easy to make; with a few evenings of work, you can have a covetable companion for life. Given a week, you could be charging admission to your own nature park! Along with the knitting patterns, Sally and Joanna also include brief descriptions of the various species and offer tips and advice on sewing up and embellishing the animals. And, of course, these knitted animals are much easier to look after than the real things? they don't eat, won't make a mess, and are legal to keep in your home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Muir and Osborne (Knit Your Own Dog, Knit Your Own Cat) have once again assembled a collection of irresistible knitted animals. This book does exactly what it says it does, offering patterns for a veritable menagerie of miniature creatures. Patterns detail familiar animals such as the elephant and crocodile, as well as such less familiar animals as the anteater or meerkat. With the clever use of pipe cleaners, these animals can stand, sit, sprawl, or, in the case of the Fruit Bat,

hang from the rafters. Fun details include fringe of all types, from lion manes to orangutan fur, and color work that replicates zebra stripes, leopard spots, and even mandrill coloring, among others. Two mother-and-child duos are especially darling: a seal and pup, and a kangaroo with removable joey. Patterns require focus but are, as described in the book's subtitle, easy to follow. Devotees of knitted creatures will find a lot to love in this collection.

Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne run their own knitwear business, Muir and Osborne ([www.muirandosborne.co.uk](http://www.muirandosborne.co.uk)). They have a shop in London and export their knitwear to stores in the U.S., Japan, and Europe, including Barneys New York, Saks Fifth Avenue, Liberty, and The Cross. They won the U.K. Fashion Export Small Business Award in 2002, and several pieces of their knitwear are in the permanent collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Their previous books include *Knit Your Own Dog*, *Knit Your Own Cat*, *Knit Your Own Dog: The Second Litter*, and *Knit Your Own Zoo*. Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne run their own knitwear business, Muir and Osborne ([www.muirandosborne.co.uk](http://www.muirandosborne.co.uk)). They have a shop in London and export their knitwear to stores in the U.S., Japan, and Europe, including Barneys New York, Saks Fifth Avenue, Liberty, and The Cross. They won the U.K. Fashion Export Small Business Award in 2002, and several pieces of their knitwear are in the permanent collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Their previous books include *Knit Your Own Dog*, *Knit Your Own Cat*, *Knit Your Own Dog: The Second Litter*, and *Knit Your Own Zoo*.

*KNIT YOUR OWN ZOO* is another fine collection of patterns for small knitted display animals (not really suitable for knitted toys) from the authors of *Knit Your Own Dog* and *Knit Your Own Cat*. These patterns are well-written, with clear instructions, but probably require advanced intermediate knitting skills (or beyond), because each animal is constructed from many small, shaped parts. For example, the wonderful giraffe is assembled from (1) a right back leg, (2) a left back leg, (3) a right front leg, (4) a left front leg, (5) a right side of body, (6) a left side of body, (7) a head, (8) a tummy, (9) ears, (10) tail, and (11) mane. The parts for the legs are held on stitch holders until it's time to add the body; some body stitches are also held on stitch holders until it's time to add the head; and so on. The giraffe's "spots" are knitted in using Fair Isle and Intarsia methods. The mane is crocheted; the eyes are embroidered; the tail uses buttonhole stitch; the "horns" are pipe cleaners. To finish, pipe cleaners are added for support when the animal is stuffed. The patterns are written out with row-by-row instructions. The animals are knit with fine yarn on US 2 and US 3 needles. It amazes me, how well the authors replicate the animals' essential

characteristics, so that each finished animal is immediately recognizable as the zoo animal it is intended to be. I really love the giraffe, the mandrill, the bat, the armadillo, the koala, the leopard, and the crocodile! Patterns are included for the following animals: giant anteater, armadillo, fruit bat, ring-tailed lemur, brown bear, wolf, gray seal and pup, polar bear, penguin, crocodile, koala, chimpanzee, lion, leopard, tiger, zebra, mandrill, camel, meerkat, elephant, giraffe, panda, orangutan, and kangaroo and joey.

The patterns are unique and charming. The knitting directions are pretty straight forward, although I did find a couple of errors in the pattern. However, the assembly of the pieces parts of the pattern is poorly explained making it quite a challenge to figure out how the origami-like pieces fit together to create the final product. Luckily, I've been knitting for 45 years and have lots of experience, so I was able to create a wonderful mandrill ape - but basically this was despite the pattern in the book. I'd love to make more little animals, since they are quite dear and difference, but I have to recover from my mandrill experience!

Very good patterns. a little confusing to follow at times but worth the time. very interesting and realistic little sculptures. Have not started one of these yet. I have the other book in this series-"Knit your own cat" . just finishing up one of the cats and its really cute. Not for little kids to play with necessarily. More of an" up on a shelf "sculpture. Perfect gift for the teenage girl who loves animals but doesn't sleep with stuffed ones anymore!

I already own Knit Your Own Dog so I am familiar with the series written by Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne. This particular series is not for beginners. Some of the instructions are a little vague and may require you experiment a little to get it right. I will say this, the patterns do take a bit more patience and time. Knitting the small body parts can get tedious. When I finished knitting all the pieces, I had my doubts. When the pieces come together, that's when the magic begins. The people I gave these to were quite impressed with the detail. The patience does pay off.

Looking for a camel pattern to complete a Nativity scene. This one worked well. I may knit some of the other animals later.

I bought this because I have other book by these ladies. They are amazing. Good directions and not difficult for an experienced knitter. I will be making many more animals.

Fantastic book. Directions well written and very understandable. This book is not for the novice knitter, however; it should be viewed as aimed at one who has a basic working knowledge of the knitting process. The book arrived on time and, being a used volume, in much better condition than I expected. Would definitely buy from this seller again.

Have not made any of the patterns so far

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