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## Knitting pouches for orphaned wildlife

When juvenile possums, wallabies, sugar gliders or kangaroos come into care they need to be kept warm and quiet – and needs a pouch. AWARE wildlife carers are always in need of suitable pouches. The pouches are used for many different animals, at many stages of their development. Some are required for the tiny furless joeys and some for the larger joeys. This means various sized pouches are always useful.

There are two kinds of pouch needed, one inner liner (sewn) made of cotton and an outer pouch (knitted) made of wool. The inner liner is changed in many cases after each feed resulting in up to 6 pouches being used per joey over 24 hours. As carers often have multiple joeys in care the number of pouches used over 24 hours can amount to quite a few!

The size of pouches varies greatly depending on the stage of development of the joey in need and unfortunately with washing regularly, the life span of a pouch is not unlimited and as such the need for pouches is always great for wildlife carers.

**Wool:** 4/5 or 8 ply pure wool are preferable (we are unable to use pouches made from synthetic materials)

**Colour:** Any colour – a clever way to use up yarn leftover from other jobs! 😊

**Knitting stitch:** Pouches should be knitted in a garter stitch or stocking stitch  
Knit evenly and not loosely so little feet and claws don't get caught up and to keep in the warmth.

**Needles:** Size 8 needles (old UK size) or 4mm metric UK size needles

**Approximate Dimensions:** Four different sizes to choose from:

1. SMALL 23cm wide x 25cm high e.g. Baby ringtail or feathertail glider
2. MEDIUM 32cm wide x 38cm high e.g. Possum
3. LARGE 40cm wide x 44cm high e.g. Joey
4. X-LARGE 50cm wide x 60cm high e.g. Larger Joey

*Size can vary depending on type of yarn and tension of the knitter.*

**Instructions:** *Pouches* need to be rectangle in shape (so you can just knit one long rectangle then fold together and sew the two sides).

Fold worked piece in half and stitch down one side and across bottom.

Make a drawstring - either crochet a length of chain, make a twisted cord or use a fabric tape for the drawstring.

