SKELLY

the Skeleton Pup



Complete Digital Crochet Amigurumi Pattern

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY - NO PHYSICAL ITEM WILL BE SHIPPED

Skill level: Intermediate | Terminology: US crochet terms
Designed for bulky plush yarn. Finished measurements are calculated design targets and may vary with yarn, hook, tension, stuffing, and individual technique.

1. Digital Download Notice

This product is a digital crochet pattern. It is not a finished amigurumi or physical toy, and no physical item will be shipped. The customer must crochet and assemble Skelly using the written instructions in this PDF.

No physical prototype or test crochet was used to prepare this pattern. Finished measurements, yarn amounts, and proportions are digitally calculated design targets. Final size may vary with yarn, hook size, tension, stuffing, and individual crochet technique.

Pattern format
US crochet terminology. Most pieces are worked in continuous spiral rounds. Decorative bone details are crocheted as simple cords or added with surface embroidery.

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2. Finished Measurements

The measurements below are design targets for a seated Skelly made with bulky plush yarn and a firm amigurumi tension. They are not physical guarantees.

Seated overall height	29-32 cm / 11.5-12.5 in
Overall width, ear to ear	26-29 cm / 10.25-11.5 in
Body depth, front to back	13-15 cm / 5-6 in
Head, excluding ears	15-17 cm wide x 14-16 cm high / 6-6.75 x 5.5-6.25 in
Muzzle projection	About 3-4 cm / 1.25-1.5 in
Ear size	10-11 cm long x 5-6 cm wide / 4-4.25 x 2-2.5 in
Foreleg, shoulder to paw	11-13 cm / 4.25-5 in
Hind leg / side paw	7-9 cm / 2.75-3.5 in
Tail	10-12 cm / 4-4.75 in
Heart applique	About 4-5 cm / 1.5-2 in wide

Size note
If you substitute a different yarn weight, keep the same stitch counts and use a hook that produces a dense fabric. The entire plush will scale up or down together.

3. Materials and Tools

Yarn	Bulky / category 5 plush or chenille yarn, preferably polyester.
Black	Approx. 170-200 g / 170-215 m (head base, body, ears, forelegs, hind legs, tail, nose details, eye-socket rings).
Cream / white	Approx. 65-85 g / 65-95 m (front and back skull panels, muzzle, bone details, paw pads, tail tip).
Red	Approx. 8-12 g / 8-15 m (heart applique).
Hook	5.0 mm / H-8, or size needed for a firm fabric with no visible stuffing gaps.
Eyes	2 x 16-18 mm black safety eyes. Embroidered eyes are a suitable alternative.
Filling	Approx. 140-180 g polyester fibre filling.
Tools	Tapestry needle, stitch markers, pins, scissors, measuring tape, row counter if useful.
Optional	Small amount of smooth black yarn or embroidery thread for the mouth line and eye-socket rings if a finer outline is preferred.

Safety warning
Safety eyes and other small or rigid components may not be suitable for children under three years old. Follow local safety requirements for the intended recipient. For an alternative without detachable safety-eye components, embroider the eyes securely with yarn or thread.

4. Gauge and Tension

Amigurumi fabric should be firm and dense so the stuffing does not show through. The practical target gauge for this design is:

Target gauge
Approximately 14 sc x 13 spiral rounds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in using a 5.0 mm hook and the recommended bulky plush yarn.
Measure over a firm single-crochet tube or swatch worked in the round.

Exact gauge affects the finished size and yarn usage. If your fabric has visible gaps, use a smaller hook. If the fabric is very stiff and difficult to work, move up one hook size while keeping the stuffing controlled.

Do not stretch the swatch when measuring. Gauge is a sizing guide, not a guarantee of an exact finished measurement.

5. Crochet Method and Terminology

Terminology	US crochet terms throughout.
Main construction	Head, body, ears, forelegs, hind legs, and tail are worked in continuous spiral rounds unless stated otherwise.
BOR marker	Place a marker in the first stitch of every round and move it after each round. The BOR is only a round-start marker; it is not treated as a fixed centre-back line.
Right / left	Right and left are described from Skelly's own point of view unless otherwise stated.
Physical orientation	After stuffing, establish physical centre front (CF) through the face/heart and physical centre back (CB) directly opposite. Placement maps use CF and CB, not the drifting BOR.
Single crochet style	Standard yarn-over single crochet is assumed. Yarn-under single crochet may be used consistently if preferred, but it can slightly change size and texture.
Finished side	Keep the normal right side of the crochet facing outward.
Rows	Turn only when a row-based applique specifically says to turn.

6. Abbreviations

MR	magic ring	st / sts	stitch / stitches
ch	chain	rnd / rnds	round / rounds
sl st	slip stitch	row / rows	row / rows
sc	single crochet	rep	repeat
hdc	half double crochet	FO	fasten off
dc	double crochet	BOR	beginning of round
inc	increase: work 2 sc in the same stitch	CF / CB	physical centre front / physical centre back
dec	invisible decrease: work the front loops of the next 2 stitches together as 1 sc		

Invisible decrease
Insert the hook through the front loop of the next stitch, then through the front loop of the following stitch. Yarn over and pull through both front loops, yarn over again, and pull through the remaining 2 loops.

7. Construction Overview

Head base	1 black round head; firmly stuffed and closed. Two cream/white skull panels are sewn to the front and back, leaving a visible black border around each panel. Safety eyes are fitted to the front skull panel before that panel is sewn to the head.
Skull panels	2 cream/white flat circular panels: 1 front and 1 back. Keep the front panel slightly wider than tall when pinning; keep the back panel nearly circular.
Muzzle	1 cream/white shallow oval muzzle; lightly stuffed during sewing. After attachment, three shallow vertical sculpting channels divide the lower muzzle into four rounded lobes. Add a short black vertical mouth line directly below the nose, aligned with the centre groove between the two middle lobes.
Ears	2 black floppy ears; unstuffed and flattened at the base.
Body	1 black pear-shaped seated body; firmly stuffed at the base and moderately stuffed toward the neck. Leave the 24-st neck opening accessible until the head is attached.
Forelegs	2 black long front limbs with broad paws; paw ends moderately stuffed, upper limbs lightly stuffed.
Hind legs	2 black rounded side legs/paws; moderately stuffed and attached low on the body.
Tail	1 black tail with cream/white tip; lightly stuffed and curved upward.
Decorations	1 red heart, 4 white foreleg bone cords, 6 white rib cords, 2 white back-spine bone cords, 1 white front sternum with 2 chest crossbars, and white paw pads.
Assembly order	Complete black head base -> prepare front and back skull panels -> fit eyes to front panel -> sew both skull panels to head -> complete muzzle and face -> body -> head/body join -> hind legs -> forelegs -> tail -> heart and skeleton details -> paw pads -> final shaping and checks.

Access rule
Complete, stuff, and close the black head base before attaching the skull panels. Fit safety eyes to the front skull panel before sewing that panel to the head. Do not close the body neck opening before the head/body join. Add skeleton details after the body is stuffed so the cords can be positioned against the final shape.

8. Complete Written Crochet Pattern

A. Head Base - make 1, black

Work in continuous spiral rounds. Move the BOR marker after every round.

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	MR 6 sc.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc 1, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc 2, inc) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc 3, inc) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc 4, inc) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc 5, inc) 6 times.	42
8	(Sc 6, inc) 6 times.	48
9	(Sc 7, inc) 6 times.	54
10-17	Sc in each st around.	54 each
18	(Sc 7, dec) 6 times.	48
19	(Sc 6, dec) 6 times.	42
20	(Sc 5, dec) 6 times.	36
21	(Sc 4, dec) 6 times.	30
22	(Sc 3, dec) 6 times.	24
23	(Sc 2, dec) 6 times.	18
24	(Sc 1, dec) 6 times.	12
25	Dec 6 times. FO and close the remaining opening.	6

Begin stuffing after Rnd 20. Fill the crown, cheeks, and lower head evenly. Continue stuffing through Rnd 24. Keep the face round rather than elongated, then close the head base completely.

A1. Front and Back Skull Panels - make 2, cream/white

Work flat in continuous spiral rounds.

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	MR 6 sc.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc 1, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc 2, inc) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc 3, inc) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc 4, inc) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc 5, inc) 6 times. FO with a long sewing tail.	42

Front panel: Temporarily pin the front skull panel to physical CF of the fully stuffed and closed black head. Shape the panel slightly wider than tall and leave an even black border visible around it. Mark two level eye centres approximately 5-6 cm / 2-2.4 in apart, slightly below the panel's horizontal midpoint and approximately aligned with Head Rnds 13-14.

Insert the safety-eye posts through the front skull panel only, without fitting the washers yet. Check the complete head from the front to confirm that the eyes are level and evenly spaced. Reposition the posts if necessary. Once satisfied, carefully unpin the panel, secure the washers behind the panel, then re-pin the panel in the same position and sew completely around its outer edge.

If using embroidered eyes, keep the eye positions marked and embroider them after the panel is securely sewn to the head.

Back panel: Centre the second panel at physical CB opposite the front panel. Keep it nearly circular and leave an even black border visible around its entire edge. Sew securely around the perimeter.

The existing muzzle and ears are then attached to the completed head.

B. Muzzle - make 1, cream/white

The muzzle is worked as a shallow oval pouch around both sides of the foundation chain.

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
Foundation	Ch 6.	-
1	Starting in 2nd ch from hook: sc in next 4 ch, 3 sc in last ch; working along underside of chain, sc in next 3 ch, inc in final ch.	12
2	Inc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, inc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 3 sts, inc in each of last 2 sts.	18
3-4	Sc in each st around. FO after Rnd 4, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail.	18 each

Do not fully stuff the muzzle before sewing. Add a small amount of filling through the final opening once about three-quarters of the edge has been attached to the head. Finish sewing the muzzle securely. With cream/white yarn, make three evenly spaced shallow vertical sculpting channels across the lower half of the muzzle so the lower edge is divided into four rounded lobes. Pull each channel only firmly enough to separate the lobes without flattening the muzzle. Secure and bury the sculpting yarn.

C. Ears - make 2, black

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	MR 6 sc.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc 1, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc 2, inc) 6 times.	24
5-9	Sc in each st around.	24 each
10	(Sc 6, dec) 3 times.	21
11-12	Sc in each st around.	21 each
13	(Sc 5, dec) 3 times.	18
14-15	Sc in each st around. FO, leaving a long sewing tail.	18 each

Do not stuff. Flatten the 18-st opening into 9 matched stitch pairs. Sew through both layers when attaching the base to the head. Make the second ear to mirror the first.

D. Body - make 1, black

Work from the flat seated base upward toward the neck in continuous spiral rounds.

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	MR 6 sc.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc 1, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc 2, inc) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc 3, inc) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc 4, inc) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc 5, inc) 6 times.	42
8-11	Sc in each st around.	42 each
12	(Sc 5, dec) 6 times.	36
13-15	Sc in each st around.	36 each
16	(Sc 4, dec) 6 times.	30
17-19	Sc in each st around.	30 each
20	(Sc 3, dec) 6 times.	24
21-23	Sc in each st around. FO after Rnd 23, leaving a long head-sewing tail.	24 each

Begin stuffing after Rnd 16. Keep the base broad and flat by pressing the lower stuffing outward toward the sides. Stuff the upper body moderately so the 24-st neck opening remains flexible for a clean head join. Do not close the neck opening.

E. Forelegs - make 2, black

The broad paw is made first. The limb then narrows and continues upward to the shoulder.

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	MR 6 sc.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc 1, inc) 6 times.	18
4-6	Sc in each st around.	18 each
7	(Sc 1, dec) 6 times.	12
8-17	Sc in each st around. FO after Rnd 17, leaving a long sewing tail.	12 each

Stuff Rnds 1-7 moderately to form a rounded paw. Add only a light amount of stuffing through Rnds 8-13 and leave Rnds 14-17 almost unstuffed so the shoulder seam can lie flat. Flatten the final opening into 6 matched stitch pairs.

Paw-face orientation
Before attaching each foreleg, mark the forward-facing surface of the paw. Three elongated cream/white toe pads will be embroidered side by side across this face. Do not add a large central pad to the forepaws.

F. Hind Legs - make 2, black

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	MR 6 sc.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc 1, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc 2, inc) 6 times.	24
5-7	Sc in each st around.	24 each
8	(Sc 2, dec) 6 times.	18
9-12	Sc in each st around. FO after Rnd 12, leaving a long sewing tail.	18 each

Stuff moderately, keeping the piece rounded but not rigid. Flatten the 18-st opening into 9 matched stitch pairs. Mark the paw face for later white pad placement.

G. Tail - make 1

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	With cream/white, MR 6 sc.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	Sc in each st around. Change to black in the final yarn-over of the last stitch. Cut cream/white.	12
4-10	With black, sc in each st around.	12 each
11	(Sc 2, dec) 3 times.	9
12-17	Sc in each st around. FO after Rnd 17, leaving a long sewing tail.	9 each

Lightly stuff the white tip and lower half of the black section. Leave the base soft enough to curve. Gently bend the tail upward before pinning; no wire is required.

H. Red Heart Applique - make 1, red

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
1	In MR: ch 2 (does not count as a st), 3 dc, 3 hdc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, 3 hdc, 3 dc, ch 2, sl st into the ring. Tighten the MR and FO with a long sewing tail.	13 sts + 2 ch-1 spaces

Block only with your fingers; do not stretch. The point of the heart should face downward.

I. Foreleg Bone Cords - make 4, cream/white

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
Foundation	Ch 9.	-
1	Starting in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each ch across. FO, leaving a sewing tail.	8 sl sts

After each cord is sewn to a foreleg, use the yarn tail to add two short horizontal stitches across each end. These small end-bars create the rounded bone-head effect.

J. Rib Cords - make 6, cream/white

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
Upper pair - make 2	Ch 8; starting in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each ch across. FO.	7 sl sts
Middle pair - make 2	Ch 9; starting in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each ch across. FO.	8 sl sts
Lower pair - make 2	Ch 10; starting in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each ch across. FO.	9 sl sts

K. Back Spine Bone Cords - make 2, cream/white

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Count
Foundation	Ch 7.	-
1	Starting in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each ch across. FO, leaving a sewing tail.	6 sl sts

After each cord is sewn vertically to the body, use the yarn tail to make two short horizontal stitches across each end, creating the rounded bone-head effect. Keep the two finished bones separate; do not join them together.

L. Paw Pads and Front Chest Skeleton - surface embroidery

Paw pads:
Forepaws - On the forward-facing surface of each forepaw, make 3 elongated cream/white oval toe pads arranged side by side across the distal paw face. Keep the centre pad slightly fuller/longer than the two outer pads. Do not add a separate large central palm pad.

Hind paws - On each hind-paw face, build 1 rounded cream/white centre pad about 1.5-2 cm / 0.6-0.8 in wide. Add 6 smaller oval toe pads arranged in a horseshoe around the upper and side edges of the centre pad. Space the six pads evenly and mirror the arrangement on the second hind paw.

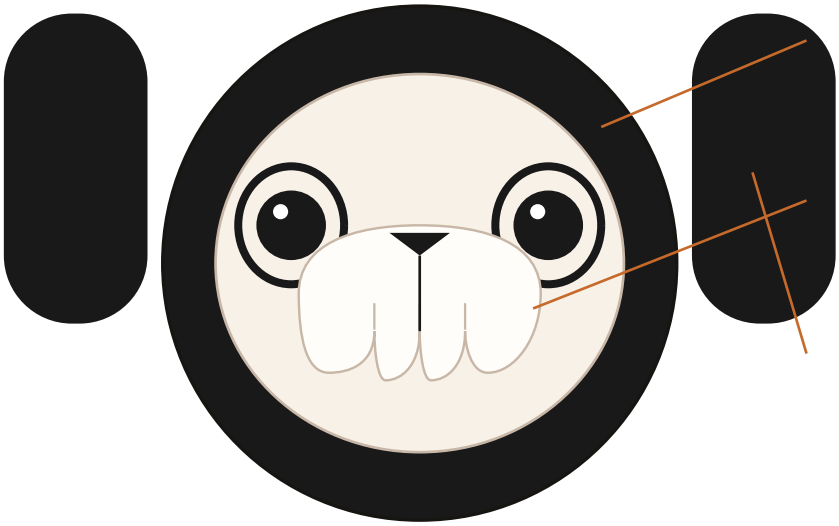
Front chest skeleton: With cream/white yarn, build one short thick vertical sternum centred on physical CF from approximately Body Rnd 13 down through Body Rnd 9. Add 2 horizontal bone bars crossing the sternum: the upper bar across approximately Body Rnds 12-13 and the lower bar across approximately Body Rnds 10-11. Extend each bar evenly to the left and right. At the lower end of the sternum, add 2-3 short stitches to form a small downward-pointing rounded/teardrop tip. Keep the entire motif centred directly beneath the heart.

M. Eye-Socket Rings

With black yarn, embroider or surface-stitch one complete closed oval ring around each eye. Keep the ring close to the outer edge of the eye and approximately one yarn-stitch wide. Mirror the two rings and keep their inner edges clear of the eye surface. Do not pull tightly enough to distort the cream skull-panel fabric. Smooth black yarn or embroidery thread may be substituted for the black plush yarn if a finer outline is preferred.

9. Placement Maps

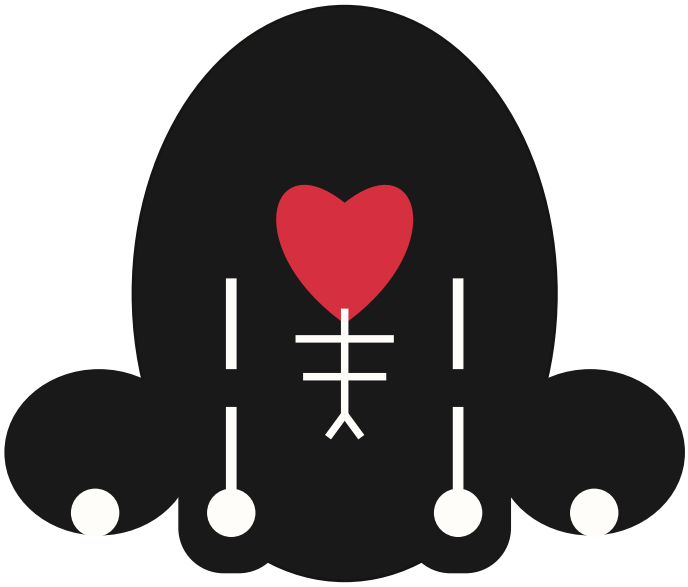
Use physical CF and CB after stuffing. The BOR marker is not a placement axis. Pin every feature first, then check from the front, back, top, bottom, and both sides before sewing.



Front placement map - schematic, not to scale

Front skull panel	Centre at physical CF, leaving an even black head border visible around the panel. Eye centres align approximately with Head Rnds 13-14.
Back skull panel	Centre at physical CB opposite the front panel and leave an even black border visible around it.
Eye centres	Test-position through the temporarily pinned front skull panel before locking the washers and sewing the panel. Keep level, about 5-6 cm / 2-2.4 in centre-to-centre, slightly below the panel midpoint.
Muzzle	Centre across Head Rnds 14-19. Keep the oval horizontal. After sewing, divide the lower half into four rounded lobes with three shallow vertical sculpting channels.
Nose / mouth	Nose centred at the upper middle of the muzzle. Add one short vertical black mouth line directly below the nose, centred on the groove between the two middle muzzle lobes.
Eye-socket rings	Complete black oval ring surrounding each eye. Keep the pair mirrored and close to the eye edges.
Ears	Flattened 9-pair seam attached over Head Rnds 7-13 at the side quadrants. The top of each ear begins slightly above the eye line and the rounded ends hang downward.

Body - Front Placement



Heart
Body Rnds 14-17, centred at CF

Forelegs
Body Rnds 10-18; 4-5 sts apart at CF

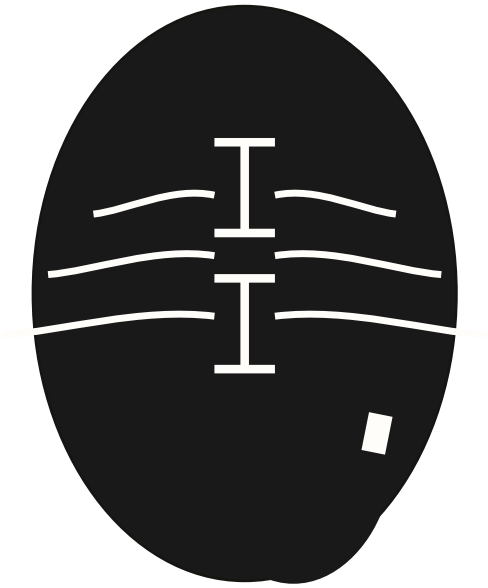
Hind legs
Body Rnds 5-10, side-front quadrants

Front chest skeleton
Sternum Rnds 9-13 + 2 crossbars

Front body placement map - schematic

The forelegs should sit in front of the body, with the inner paw edges about 4-5 body stitches apart at CF. The hind legs sit wider, creating the stable seated silhouette shown in the reference.

Body - Back Placement



Back body placement map - schematic

Rib cords
3 mirrored pairs across Body Rnds 10-16

Back spine bones
Upper Rnds 14-17; lower Rnds 9-12

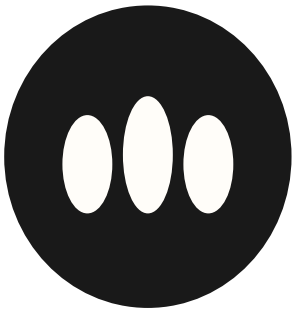
Tail
Physical CB, Body Rnds 5-8

White tip
Keep visible in side/back view

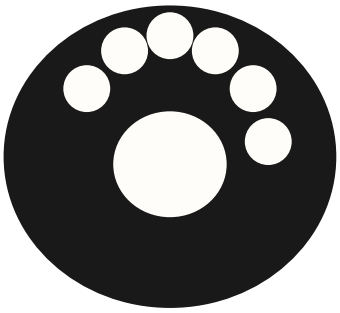
Pin the three rib pairs first, then centre the two separate spine bones on physical CB with a visible black gap between them. Leave approximately one black body round visibly separating the two bones. Keep the ribs mirrored across CB. The tail base is centred low on the back; curve the tail upward so the white tip remains visible from at least one side and the back.

Skeleton Detail Placement

Heart	Body Rnds 14-17, centred at physical CF. Point downward.
Foreleg upper bones	On front of each foreleg, over approximately Foreleg Rnds 11-16.
Foreleg lower bones	On front of each foreleg, over approximately Foreleg Rnds 5-10. Leave a small black gap at the joint.
Front chest skeleton	1 vertical sternum at physical CF across Body Rnds 9-13; 2 horizontal bars cross it at approximately Rnds 12-13 and 10-11; finish the lower sternum with a small downward-pointing tip.
Upper ribs	One cord per side across Body Rnds 14-16; begin near CB and curve slightly toward the side-front.
Middle ribs	One cord per side across Body Rnds 12-14.
Lower ribs	One cord per side across Body Rnds 10-12.
Back spine bones	Two separate vertical bone cords centred on physical CB: upper bone approximately Body Rnds 14-17 and lower bone approximately Body Rnds 9-12. Leave a visible black gap between them.
Forepaw pads	3 elongated toe pads on the forward-facing surface of each forepaw; no separate centre pad.
Hind-paw pads	1 rounded centre pad plus 6 smaller toe pads arranged in a horseshoe around it on the forward-facing paw surface.



FOREPAW: 3 elongated pads



HIND PAW: 1 centre pad + 6 smaller pads

Pad layouts shown on the forward-facing paw surfaces

Symmetry check
The skeleton decorations should look balanced rather than mechanically exact. Match the left and right heights first, then gently curve each rib cord to follow the stuffed body surface.

10. Stuffing and Shaping

Head base	Firmly stuff the black head base without stretching the stitches. Fill crown and cheeks evenly and close securely before sewing on the skull panels.
Muzzle	Lightly stuffed only after most of the edge has been sewn down. Keep softly rounded; do not make a hard cone.
Ears	Unstuffed. Flatten naturally.
Body	Firm lower half with a flat seated base; moderate upper half so the neck seam remains flexible.
Forelegs	Moderate stuffing in paws, light stuffing in shafts, almost none at shoulder edge.
Hind legs	Moderately stuffed. Keep the paw face broad and slightly flattened.
Tail	Lightly stuffed. Keep base soft enough to curve.
Final shaping	After assembly, massage stuffing away from seams and toward any low spots. Do not overstuff to force dimensions.

Muzzle sculpting
After the muzzle and nose are secure, use cream/white yarn to form three shallow vertical sculpting channels across the lower half of the muzzle, dividing it into four rounded lobes. Space the channels evenly and pull only enough to create visible separation while keeping every lobe softly rounded. Secure and bury the sculpting yarn. Then add one short black vertical mouth line directly below the nose, aligned with the centre groove between the two middle lobes.

11. Assembly Instructions

Sequence 1 - Head and Face

1. Confirm that the cream/white front and back skull panels are centred on the black head and that an even black border remains visible around both. Confirm that the two eyes are level on the front panel. If using embroidered eyes, add them now. Work one complete black oval eye-socket ring around each eye, keeping the pair mirrored.

2. Pin the muzzle across Head Rnds 14-19, centred at physical CF. Sew about three-quarters of the edge with small whip stitches.

3. Add a small amount of filling to the muzzle, then finish sewing the remaining edge. Keep the oval horizontal.

4. Embroider a compact black triangular nose at the upper centre of the muzzle, about 2-2.5 cm / 0.8-1 in wide. Make the lower point face down.

5. Sculpt the lower muzzle into four rounded lobes using three evenly spaced shallow vertical channels. Add the short central black mouth line directly beneath the nose, following the centre groove between the two middle lobes. Check that the four lobes remain balanced before securing and burying the yarn.

6. Pin the ears over Head Rnds 7-13. Check the top, front, and back views so the two ear bases are level and the rounded ends hang to equal heights.

7. Sew each flattened 9-pair ear base securely to the head. Bury tails inside the head.

Sequence 2 - Head to Body and Main Limbs

8. Shape the body so the base sits flat. Identify physical CF through the intended heart position and physical CB directly opposite.

9. Place the head over the open 24-st body neck. Centre the face over body CF. Pin all around, checking that the head is level from both sides.

10. Using the long black body tail, whip stitch the 24-st neck opening to the underside of the head. Pass through full stitches on the body edge and secure bites of the head fabric. Tighten evenly without creating a neck groove.

11. Pin the hind legs on the side-front quadrants over Body Rnds 5-10. Paw faces point forward and slightly upward. Keep the left and right legs mirrored.

12. Sew each flattened 9-pair hind-leg edge firmly to the body. Add one discreet stabilising stitch lower on each leg if needed to keep the seated pose.

13. Pin the forelegs over Body Rnds 10-18. Leave about 4-5 body stitches visible between the inner foreleg edges at CF. Paw faces point forward.

14. Sew the flattened 6-pair shoulder edges to the body. Add one small stabilising stitch 1-2 rounds below each shoulder to keep the limbs close to the torso.

Sequence 3 - Tail, Skeleton Details, and Paw Pads

15. Pin the tail at physical CB across Body Rnds 5-8. Curve it upward. Check that the white tip remains visible from the back or one side, then sew around the full 9-st opening.

16. Pin the red heart on Body Rnds 14-17 at CF. Keep the top lobes level and the point facing down. Sew around the outer edge with red yarn.

17. Sew two white bone cords down the front of each foreleg: one above and one below the black joint gap. Add the short end-bars at both ends of each cord.

18. Add the front chest skeleton below the heart: make the short vertical sternum first, add the two horizontal crossbars, then form the small downward-pointing lower tip. Keep the motif centred on physical CF.

19. Pin the three rib cords on each side of the back/body. Use the shortest pair highest, the middle-length pair in the centre, and the longest pair lowest. Curve them gently and mirror the left and right sides.

20. Sew the two back-spine bone cords vertically on physical CB. Position the upper bone approximately across Body Rnds 14-17 and the lower bone approximately across Body Rnds 9-12, leaving a visible black gap between them. Add the short horizontal end-bars to both ends of each bone.

21. Add the paw details. On each forepaw, embroider 3 elongated cream/white toe pads side by side across the forward-facing paw surface, with no separate centre pad. On each hind paw, add 1 large rounded centre pad and 6 smaller oval pads arranged evenly in a horseshoe around the upper and side edges of the centre pad.

22. Make the final front, back, side, and bottom checks. Adjust any loose stuffing through an accessible seam only if needed, then secure and bury every yarn tail.

Final pose
Skelly should sit with the two forepaws centred in front, the two hind paws wider at the sides, floppy ears hanging evenly, the red heart centred on the chest, and the tail curving upward from the lower back.

12. Sewing Methods

Whip stitch - main attachments	Pass the needle through one full edge stitch of the attached piece and then through a stable stitch on the body or head. Repeat around the seam. Pull snugly enough to close gaps, but not enough to pucker the fabric.
Flattened limb / ear seam	Match opposite stitches across the opening. Sew through both layers of the flattened piece and into the body or head. This keeps the base flat and controlled.
Applique edge	Use small overcast or whip stitches close to the edge of the heart. Match the sewing yarn to the applique so the seam visually disappears.
Bone / rib cords	Lay the cord on the stuffed surface and tack it every 1-2 cm / 0.4-0.8 in. Use smaller tacking intervals on curves so the cord does not lift.
Surface embroidery	Bring the yarn up at one edge of the intended mark, span only the needed distance, and re-enter close to the opposite edge. Repeat until the pad or bar has the desired width.
Securing tails	Make 2-3 small locking passes inside the crochet fabric, then run the yarn tail through the stuffed interior and bring it out several centimetres away. Trim flush so the end retracts inside.

Do not over-tighten
Tight seams can distort the head, pull the legs out of alignment, or create visible grooves. Re-check the silhouette after every major seam.

13. Final Visual Checklist

[ ] Black head base is round and centred over the body; cream/white skull panels are centred on both the front and back with a visible, even black border around them.

[ ] Eyes are level and evenly spaced; each eye is surrounded by a complete mirrored black eye-socket ring, and no eye post or washer is exposed.

[ ] Black nose is centred; three shallow sculpting channels create four balanced rounded muzzle lobes, with the short black mouth line aligned to the centre groove.

[ ] Both black ears attach at matching heights and hang to similar lengths.

[ ] Red heart is centred on the upper chest and points downward.

[ ] Front chest skeleton has one centred vertical sternum, two horizontal crossbars, and a small downward-pointing lower tip beneath the heart.

[ ] Forelegs are aligned and their white bone cords are mirrored.

[ ] Hind legs sit wider than the forelegs and create a stable seated silhouette.

[ ] Each forepaw shows three elongated cream/white pads with no separate centre pad; each hind paw shows one rounded centre pad surrounded by six smaller pads.

[ ] Three rib cords appear on each side of the back/body and are mirrored.

[ ] Two separate white spine bones are centred vertically on physical centre back with a visible black gap between them and rounded bone ends.

[ ] Tail is secure at lower centre back and the white tip remains visible.

[ ] No visible stuffing, large crochet holes, loose seams, or unsecured yarn tails remain.

[ ] All temporary pins, guide threads, and markers have been removed.

[ ] Skelly sits without rolling to one side and looks balanced from front, back, side, and bottom views.

14. Troubleshooting

Stuffing shows through	Use a smaller hook or slightly firmer tension. Reduce stuffing before pulling the fabric tighter.
Finished plush is too large / small	Check gauge and yarn thickness. Keep stitch counts unchanged; change hook/yarn only if you want the entire design to scale.
Spiral rounds look twisted	Make sure the BOR marker is moved every round and that no stitches are skipped or added accidentally.
Eyes look uneven	Before locking safety-eye washers, temporarily pin the front skull panel to the fully stuffed and closed head and check the eye posts from the front. Reposition them through the panel if necessary. Once level, secure the washers behind the panel and sew the panel to the head. For embroidered eyes, reposition the marked eye locations before final embroidery.
Muzzle is off-centre	Re-pin so its horizontal midpoint matches physical CF and the nose sits midway between the eyes.
Head leans	Check that the 24-st neck opening was sewn evenly all around. Add one hidden reinforcing stitch on the low side if the seam is already secure.
One leg sits higher	Compare the upper seam round ranges. Re-pin before sewing; the hind-leg bases should mirror each other over Body Rnds 5-10.
Rib cords lift from body	Add extra small tacking stitches at the deepest part of each curve.
Tail points down	Re-pin the base slightly higher and curve the lightly stuffed tail upward before sewing.
Flat base becomes rounded	Move some stuffing away from the centre underside and press it toward the lower side walls.
Gaps around sewn pieces	Use smaller, more frequent whip stitches and catch a stable body stitch immediately beside each attachment-edge stitch.

15. Printing and Customer Notes

Digital download only. No physical item will be shipped. This PDF contains a crochet pattern, not a finished plushie.

Terminology: US crochet terms.

Printing: Print at 100% / Actual Size if you want a paper copy. The pattern does not rely on full-size templates, so minor printer scaling does not affect the crochet instructions.

Finished size: All dimensions are calculated design targets and may change with yarn, hook size, tension, stuffing, and technique.

Handmade use: You may use this pattern to make finished handmade items for personal use or small-scale sale. Please credit the pattern design when practical.

Pattern rights: Do not redistribute, resell, copy, translate, upload, or share this PDF or its written instructions without permission.

Safety: Use materials appropriate for the intended recipient and follow local safety requirements. For recipients for whom detachable safety-eye components are unsuitable, use the embroidered-eye alternative.

Pattern status
This pattern was created and checked digitally. No physical prototype, sample, or test crochet was used, and the stated measurements are not physical guarantees.

16. Quick Reference

Piece	Qty	Colour	Stuffing	Main placement
Head base	1	Black	Firm	Main head structure
Skull panels	2	Cream/white	None	1 centred at head CF + 1 centred at head CB
Muzzle	1	Cream/white	Light	Head CF, Rnds 14-19
Ears	2	Black	None	Head Rnds 7-13, mirrored
Body	1	Black	Firm base / moderate top	Neck opening 24 sts
Forelegs	2	Black	Moderate paw / light shaft	Body Rnds 10-18
Hind legs	2	Black	Moderate	Body Rnds 5-10
Tail	1	White tip + black	Light	Physical CB, Body Rnds 5-8
Heart	1	Red	None	Body Rnds 14-17 at CF
Foreleg bones	4	Cream/white	None	2 per foreleg
Rib cords	6	Cream/white	None	3 mirrored pairs
Back spine bones	2	Cream/white	None	CB; upper Rnds 14-17, lower Rnds 9-12
Forepaw pads	2 sets	Cream/white	None	3 elongated toe pads per forepaw; no centre pad
Hind-paw pads	2 sets	Cream/white	None	1 centre pad + 6 smaller pads per hind paw

Final assembly order

Order

Complete black head base -> prepare front and back skull panels -> fit eyes to front panel -> sew both skull panels to head -> complete muzzle and face -> complete and stuff body -> join head to body -> attach hind legs -> attach forelegs -> attach tail -> sew heart -> add foreleg bones -> add front sternum and 2 chest crossbars -> add ribs and 2 back-spine bones -> add forepaw and hind-paw details -> final symmetry and balance checks -> secure and bury all tails.

End of pattern