



Wildlife Pouches

Sewing instructions for rescue joey pouches

Animal Rescue Freecycle Craft Guild
Prepared by Joni Freeman | November 2019 | Version 1.0



Felix, an eastern grey joey, enjoying a snuggle - Western QLD Wildlife Rehabilitation



Bindi the wombat says thank you for her warm pouch!



Brushtail possum joeys - Tasmanian Animal Rescue, Rehabilitation, & Education Services

Size	Finished Sizes			Species
	Width	Height	Liner Height	
XX Small	10	15	20	Sugar glider, unfurred possum
X Small	15	20	25	Ringtail possum, bandicoot
Small	20	30	35	Bushtail possum, koala
Medium	25	35	40	Just furring joey
Medium Large	30	35	40	Very young roos & wallabies, bushtail possum
Large	35	40	45	Just furring roos, wallaby
X Large	45	55	60	Kangaroo joey
XX Large	60	70	75	Eastern Grey spoiled joey

Measurements in centimetres.

Pouch Shape

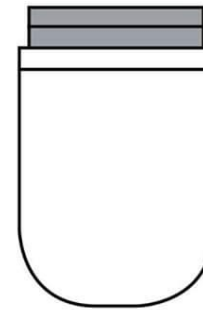
The pouches are sewn in a 4:3 proportion with rounded bottom corners that each should take up about 1/3 to 3/5 of the total bottom width.

As you can tell by the table of sizes, virtually every size of pouch will be used! Your measurements don't need to be exact, just proportionate. This makes working with offcuts and irregular pieces of fabric easier (**reuse, recycle, upcycle!**).

Liners should be about 5cm longer than the pouch so they fold over the top easily.

About Fabric

Liners should be 100% natural fibres: cotton, bamboo, linen - blends and styles of these are OK but no polyester, synthetics or fabrics that have plastic or glitter. Any print is fine! **Breathability and softness are the priority:** think about what you would put next to a baby's bare skin. Wool cannot be used for a pouch liner.



The relative proportions of the outer pouch (white) with liner inserted (grey). Note that each curved corner is about 1/3 the total width of the bottom.

Use the softest fabrics possible for liners. Flannelette, light cotton, or stretchy t-shirt jersey are recommended.

Each outer pouch needs 2-3 liners for easier washing.

Outer pouches can be anything from light fabrics for summer to warmer fleeces and wool for winter. This includes but is not limited to: cotton, flannelette, polar fleece, wool, jersey, sweatshirt material, etc. Both synthetic and natural fibers, or blends, are OK for outer pouches.

Some rescuers prefer fabric outer pouches, not crochet/knitted pouches. This is because little joeys like chewing, and it can be dangerous if they unravel and swallow long threads or yarn (they can get tangled in the intestines and cause other digestion issues). If you prefer to crochet/knit pouches, please check these are acceptable to the rescue you donate to.

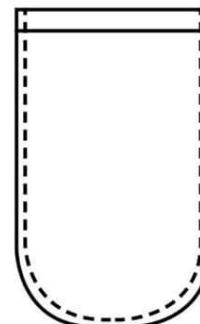


Wallaby joey Sophie a little milk drunk on a sunny day - Tasmanian Animal Rescue, Rehabilitation, & Education Services

Pouch Liner Instructions

Note about “right” vs “wrong” sides of fabric: This might be counter-intuitive to how you usually sew. Remember that the softest, fuzziest side should end up inside the pouch, facing the joey (this is often the prettier side, especially in flannelette). Whatever side you want facing inside at the end is the “right” side (because we care more about it!).

1. Cut each liner with an additional 0.75-1" (1.5-2cm) seam allowance on each side and a 2-3" (3-5cm) seam allowance for creating the rolled top.
2. You can cut two pieces, one long piece folded on the bottom, or a piece folded on the long side - consider what would be the most efficient use of your fabric.
3. Iron your cut fabric wrong sides together, right sides facing out.
4. Trace the corners using an appropriately sized bowl or plate - each curve should take up at least 1/3 to 3/5 of the bottom short edge so only a small amount of the bottom is flat (if any). Pin.
5. Sew around the outside of the pouch, creating a 1/4" or 1cm seam or slightly less (aim for 3/8" or 0.75cm if making smaller pouches).
6. Trim off excess fabric around the rounded corners of the pouch and any other ragged edges. If desired, trim down your seams to 1/8" or 0.5cm.
7. Double roll the top of the pouch to fully enclose the raw edge. Iron. Pin and sew around the top to seal in edges.
8. Turn so right sides are inside and iron so all seams are flat. Pin if desired.
9. Sew around the outside with enough seam allowance to ensure you fully enclose the raw edges of the previous seams (this is the French seam).
10. Double check for pins and trim all threads. Admire your work and imagine a little joey being very snug!



The liner - the dotted line indicates the French seam. Remember your finished liner should be about 5cm taller than the outer pouch. The French seam remains on the outside of the finished pouch.

Outer Pouch Instructions

The outer is constructed much the same way as the inner pouch but does not require a French seam. Only iron if using fabric that needs it. Right side and wrong side follow convention here: the pretty side that you want outside is the "right" side.

1. Cut each outer pouch with an additional 0.75-1" (1.5-2cm) seam allowance on each side and a 2-3" (3-5cm) seam allowance for creating the rolled top.
2. You can cut two pieces, one long piece folded on a short side (bottom), or a piece folded on the long side - consider what would be the most efficient use of your fabric.
3. Fold your fabric so right sides are inside, wrong sides facing out. Iron if needed.
4. Trace the corners using an appropriately sized bowl or plate - each curve should take up at least 1/3 to 3/5 of the bottom short edge so only a small amount of the bottom is flat (if any). Pin.
5. Sew around the outside of the pouch, leaving about a 1/4" or 1cm seam or slightly less (aim for 3/8" or 0.75cm if making smaller pouches).
6. Trim off excess fabric around the rounded corners of the pouch and any other ragged edges. If desired, trim down your seams to 1/8" or 0.5cm.
7. Double roll the top of the pouch to fully enclose the raw edge. Iron if needed. Pin and sew around the top to seal in edges.
8. Turn so the right side faces out and double check for pins and trim all threads. Fit it with a liner!

Fun Facts & FAQs

Why rounded corners?

Rounded corners prevent little faces from getting stuck in corners. It also makes the pouches easier to clean, since dirt and lint can't accumulate in a corner.

Why multiple liners?

Little joeys are used to toileting inside of mum's pouch. This might seem strange or gross to us, but this is natural for mum and joey. Surrogate parents deal with it by moving the joey to a clean liner whilst using the same warm outer pouch. At 2am, a fresh liner makes life a lot easier than having to do a whole pouch swap.

Why French (enclosed) seams?

Tiny claws get caught on a lot, and raw seams have too many threads that can fray and tangle up a joey. Keeping seams sealed is safer, and makes the pouch more durable through many washings.



Sydney Wildlife Rescue



Wildlife Arc



Save Our Wildlife Foundation