

# THE LOST SPECIES MASK KIT

FROM THE EVERYDAY TO THE EXTRAORDINARY



# PATTERN TEMPLATES

The Lost Species Mask Kit contains a series of pattern templates of mammals, birds, reptiles and insects that were once abundant in Britain, alongside a selection of animals that were important in medieval lives and culture. Many animals had special cultural meanings that are disappearing from our collective imagination.

This kit is accompanied by *The Lost Species Handbook*, created by artist Lucy Orta and historian Sophie Page. The two resources are designed to give you a brief overview of the great beauty and diversity of some of Britain's animals and their medieval history. By learning about the extraordinary relationships humans once had with wild and domesticated, real and mythical, common and rare animals we can gain a more holistic understanding of our environment's rich history and challenging present.

We hope that the selected species and the activity of mask making will inspire you to look at our relationship with the natural world through a new lens and create your own stories about what we have lost and what we risk losing.

We encourage you to use *The Lost Species Mask Kit* together with the handbook, and to let your imaginations run wild. We all face the huge challenge of the climate emergency: let us embrace our creative power and social responsibility to help shape a better world.

#### MASK-MAKING INSTRUCTIONS

Enclosed are two foldout pattern templates with a selection of species. On both sides of the sheets you will find the defining features categorised as follows: Faces / Ears, Horns & Antennae / Eyes/ Noses, Snouts & Beaks.

##### Sketching

So that you can use the patterns several times, we advise tracing-off the features onto recycled paper or card. Choose a face shape as a base for your mask. Onto this base you can add the different features. We suggest you experiment with different variations, mixing and matching to create a range of ideas.

##### Reflecting

Do refer to *The Lost Species Handbook* for ideas about each species and to reflect on why you have chosen particular features and what story your mask might tell.

##### Designing

Choose one of your ideas to create your final design. Cut out the different shapes and embellish them to build textures, patterns, colours that give a special character to your imaginary creature. We encourage you to use natural, biodegradable or recycled materials. Assemble all the features together to bring your mask to life.

##### Storytelling

Finally, we invite you to write a manifesto for your creature: this can be a short text, poem, song or other written form. You could use imagery, personal narrative and argument to explore your relationship to nature, how species have cultural value to people, why extinction matters and how to raise people's awareness of the climate emergency, species extinction and biodiversity loss.

Post your masks to social media using #ExtraordinaryMasks

## MEET THE SPECIES

### Everyday Species

*From left to right: Cat, Crow, Pigeon, Dog, Fox, Bee, Rabbit, Badger, Deer*

Medieval people lived in close proximity to animals and assigned special meanings to them, creating connections that our modern world has lost. Many peoples' livelihoods depended on their animals' welfare, and as a consequence close bonds and shared purpose arose between them. Animals were also important in the medieval belief system because they were considered part of God's good creation. Positive animal behaviours were thought to provide good models for humans to follow, while negative animal habits were thought to warn against spiritual danger.

*Discover their symbolism in [The Lost Species Handbook](#).*

### Threatened Species

*From left to right: Red Squirrel, Natterjack Toad, Dormouse, Scottish Wildcat, Turtle Dove, Sand Lizard, Hedgehog, Pine Marten, Bat*

Our wildlife is disappearing. It is estimated that 165 species are critically endangered in Great Britain and the UK is now considered "one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world". Reasons for the decline include habitat destruction and modern farming techniques that have radically altered the meadows, woodlands and forests where species once thrived. Increasing urbanisation, deforestation, pollution and climate change are accelerating the loss.

*Find out what we can do to save them before it's too late in [The Lost Species Handbook](#).*

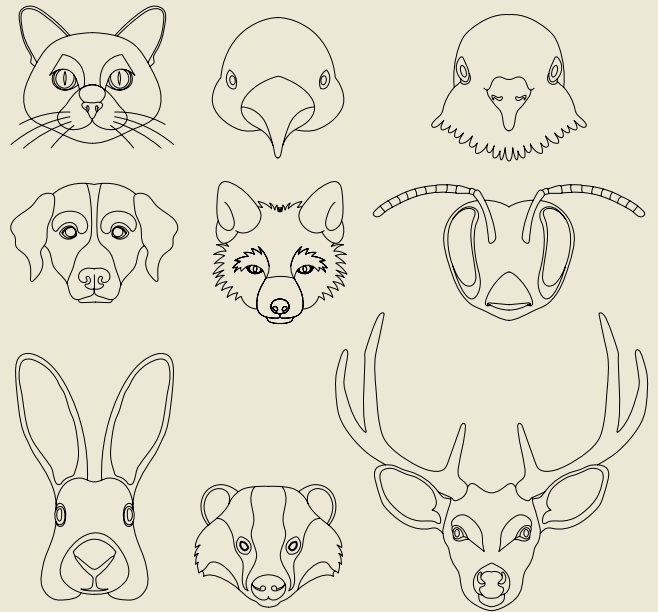
### Extinct Species

*From left to right: Crane, Wolf, Wild Boar, Lynx, Eagle, Bear, Beaver, Walrus*

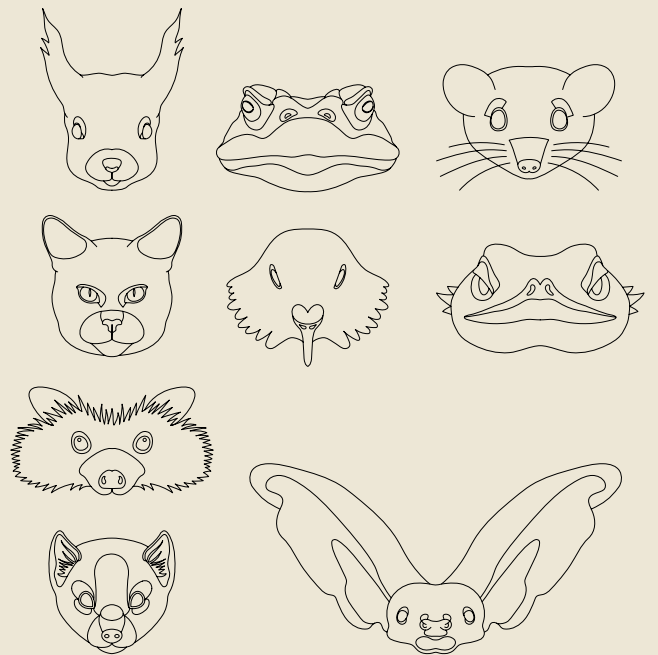
These animals all became extinct or threatened in Medieval Britain for reasons that are unhappily familiar: habitat loss, persecution and competition with introduced species. Some medieval texts reflect a sense of great loss at their disappearance. Common cranes and white-tailed eagles have been successfully reintroduced into the UK and wild boar have escaped to form new communities in the wild. Larger and fiercer animals – the wolf, lynx and bear – are more controversial candidates for reintroduction.

*Find out why species have disappeared in [The Lost Species Handbook](#).*

### Everyday Species

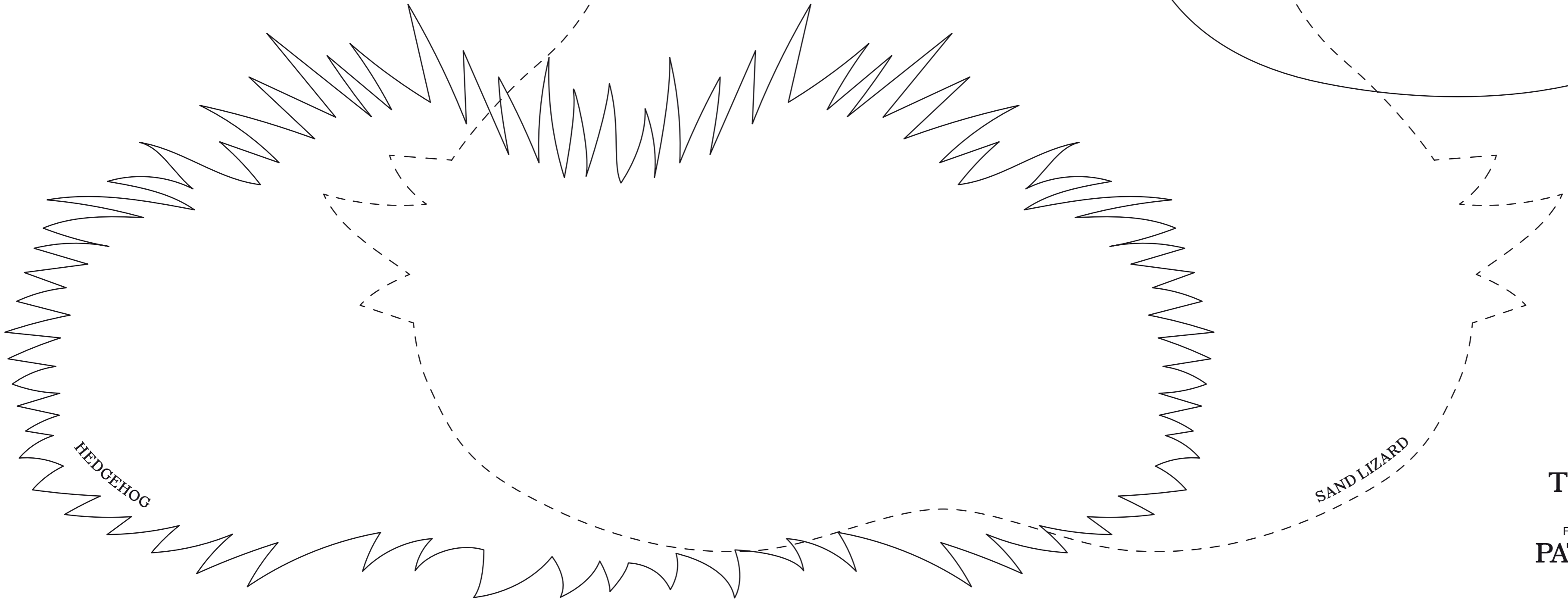
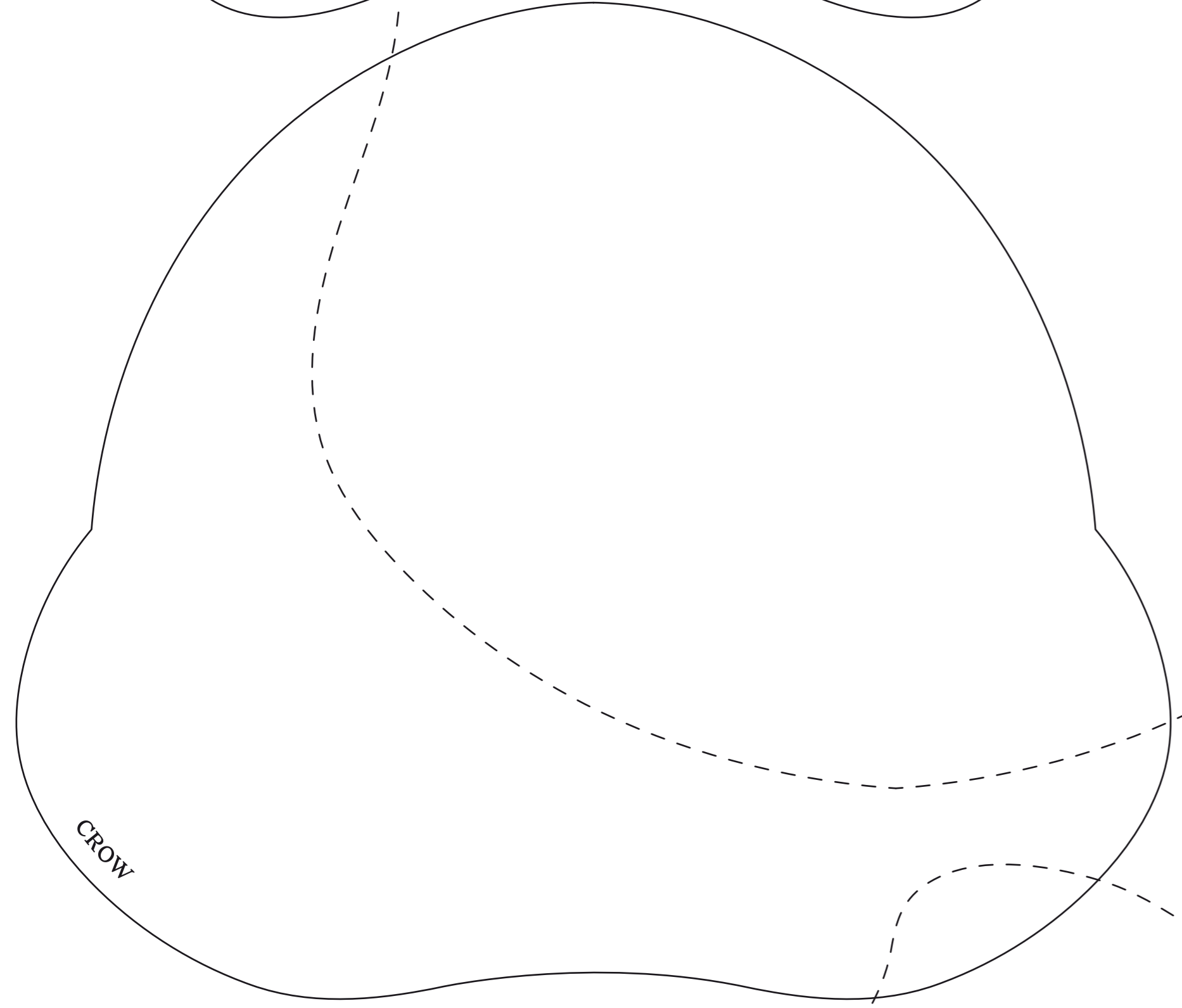
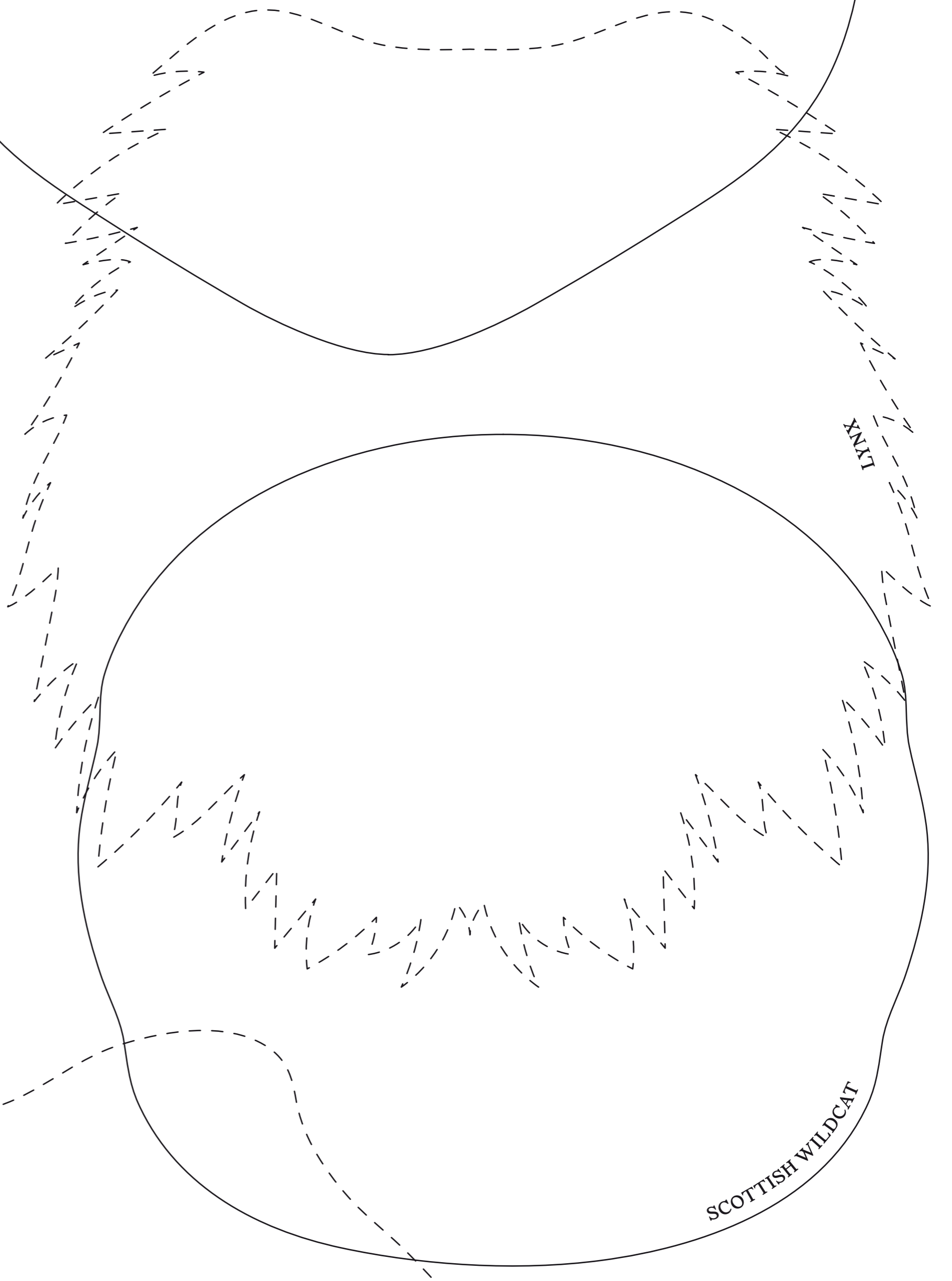
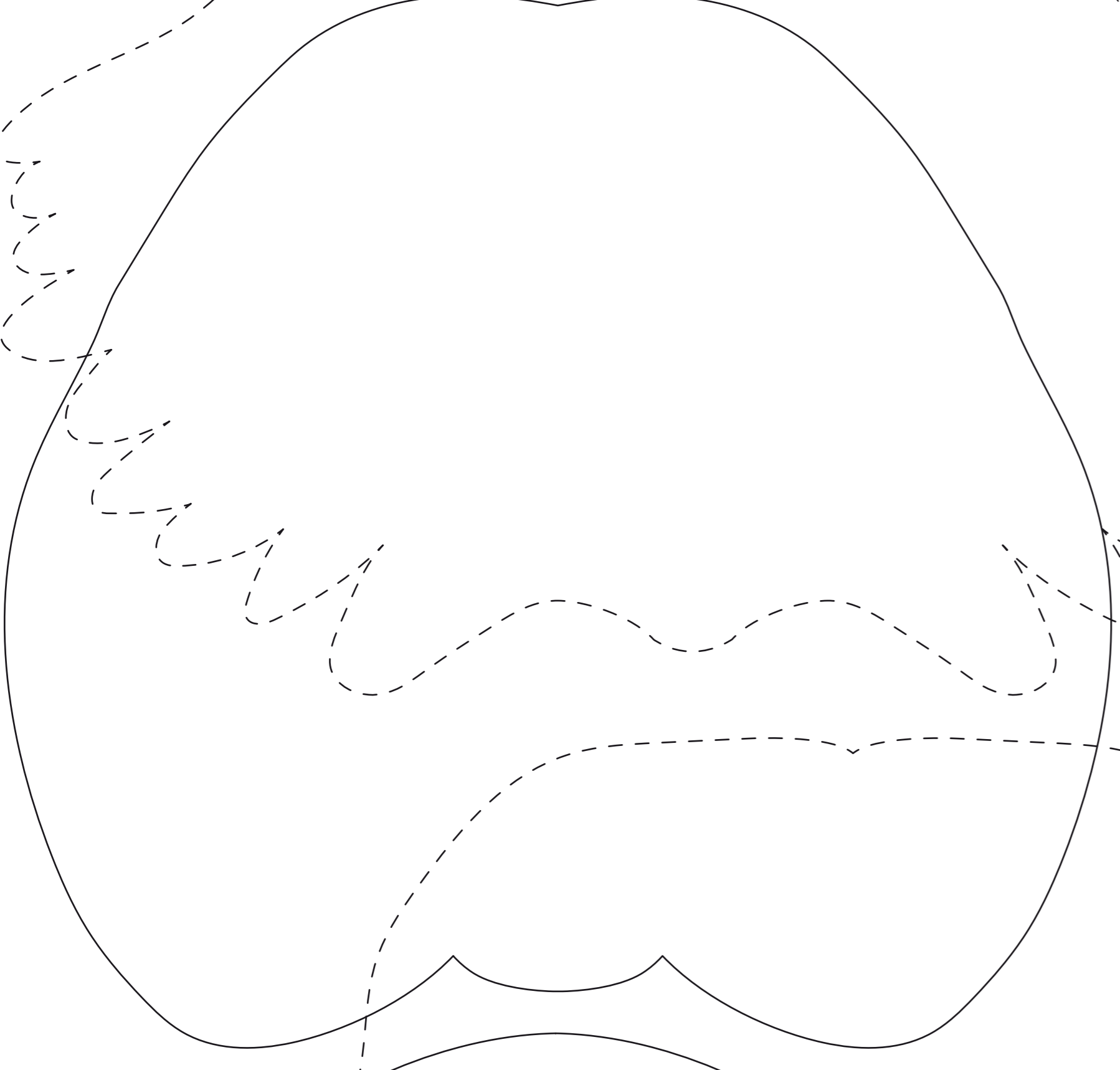
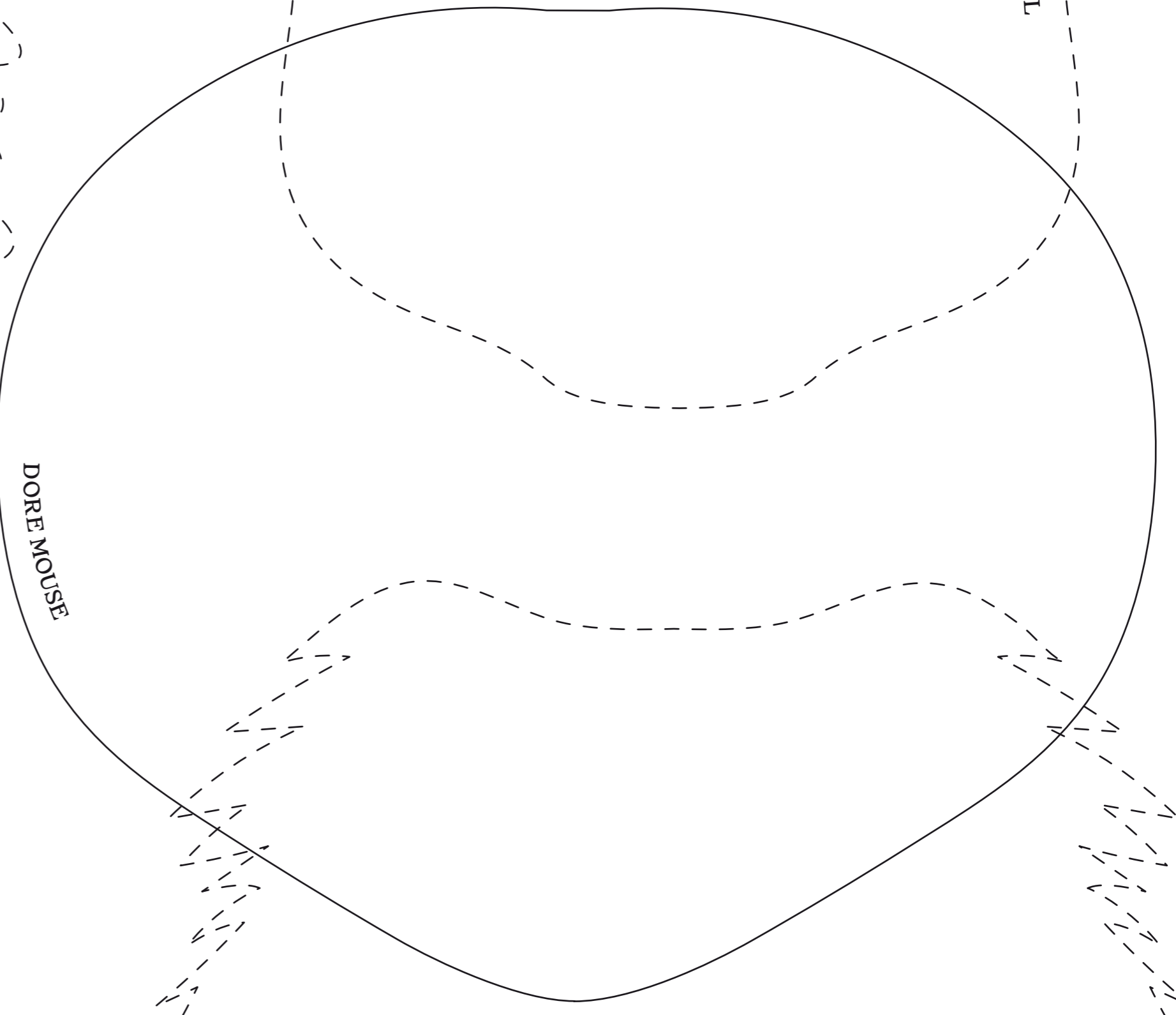
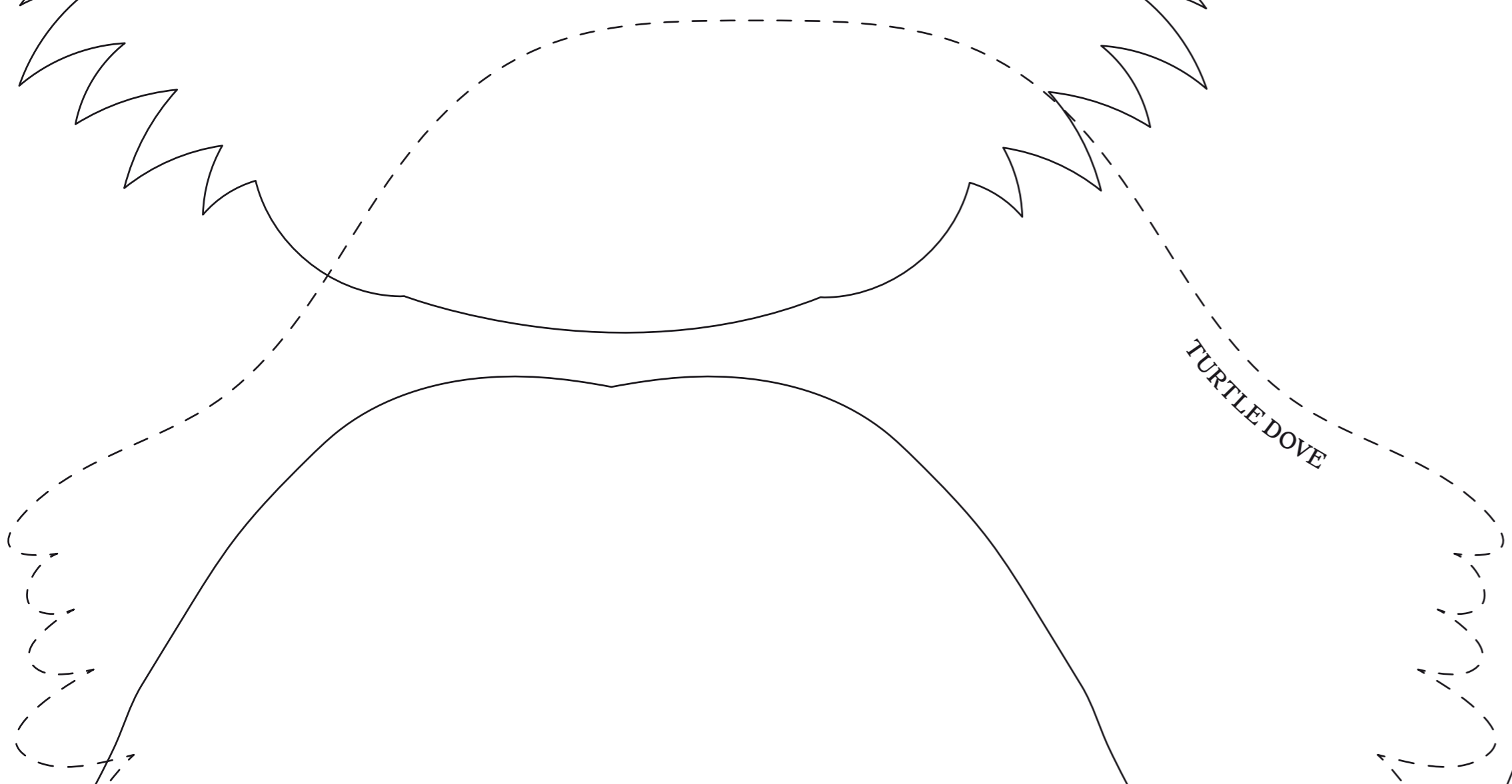
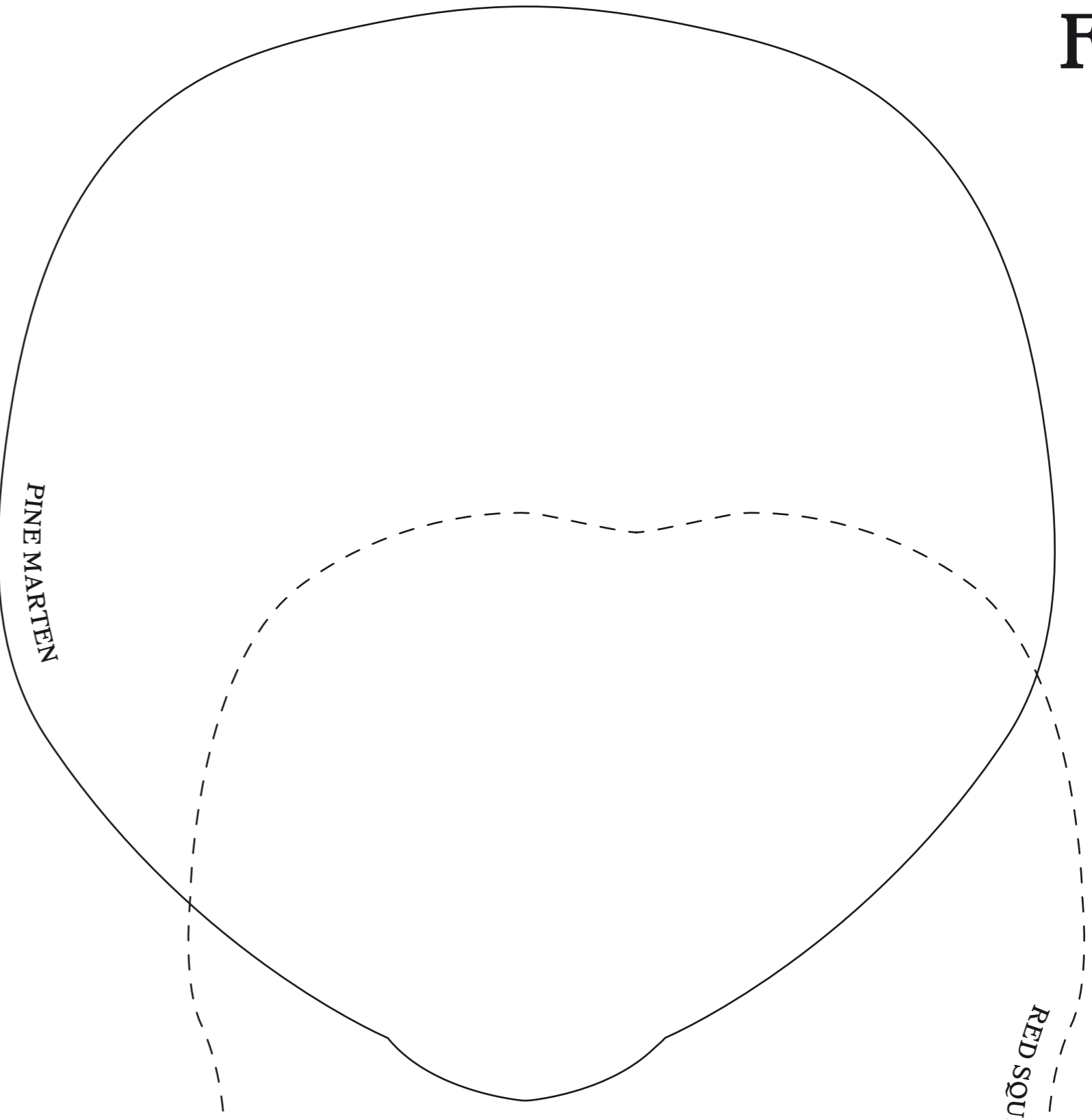
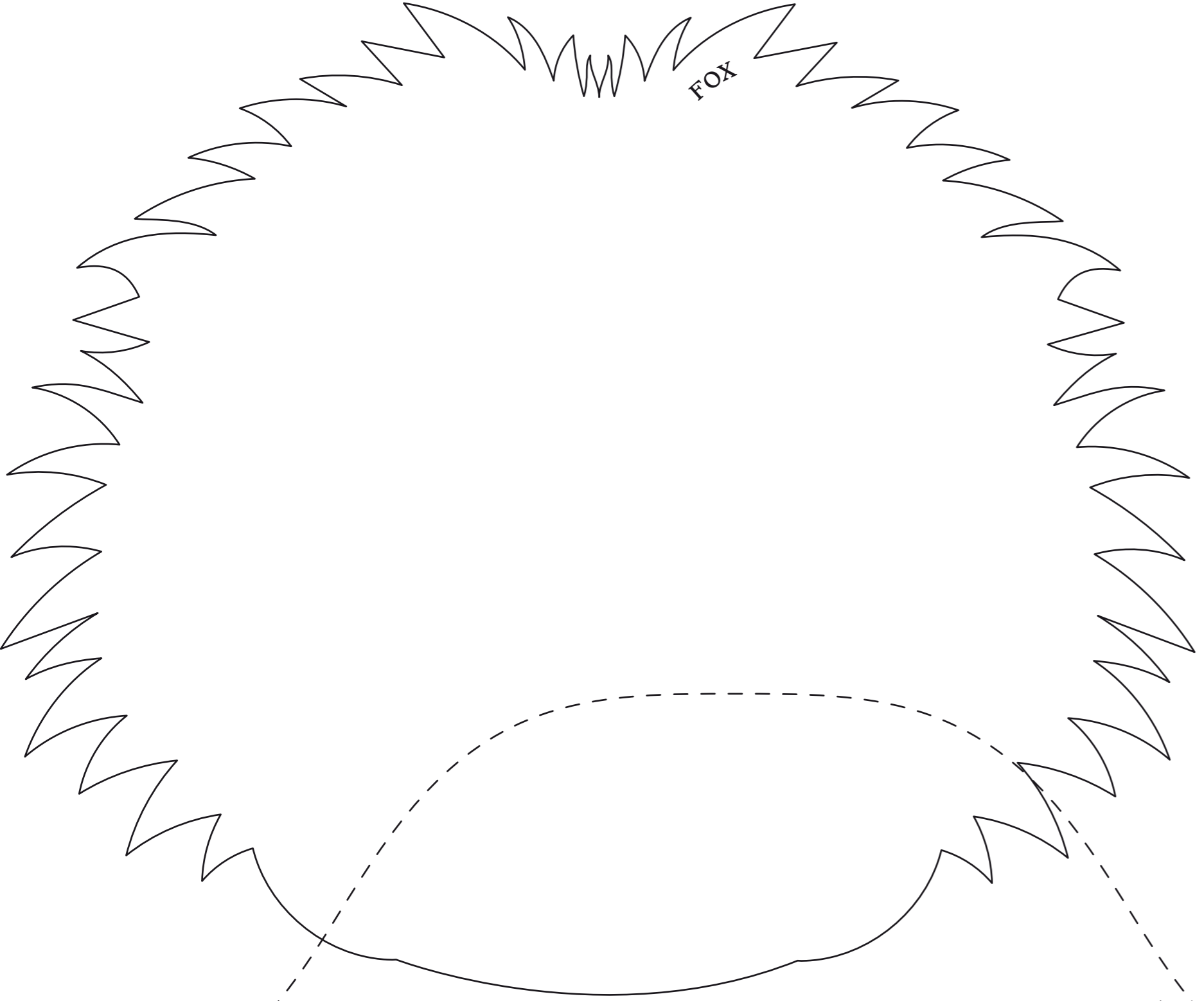


### Threatened Animals

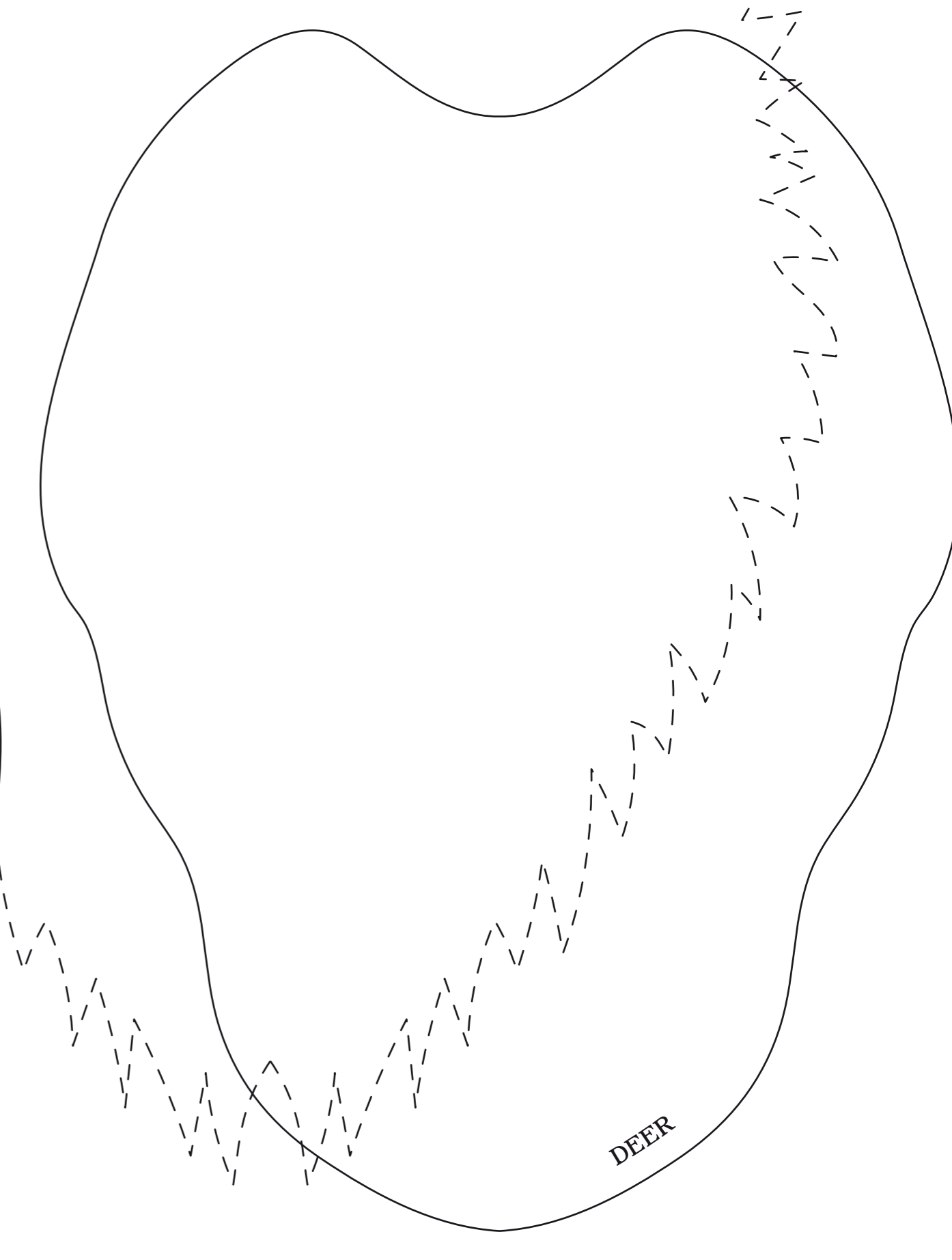
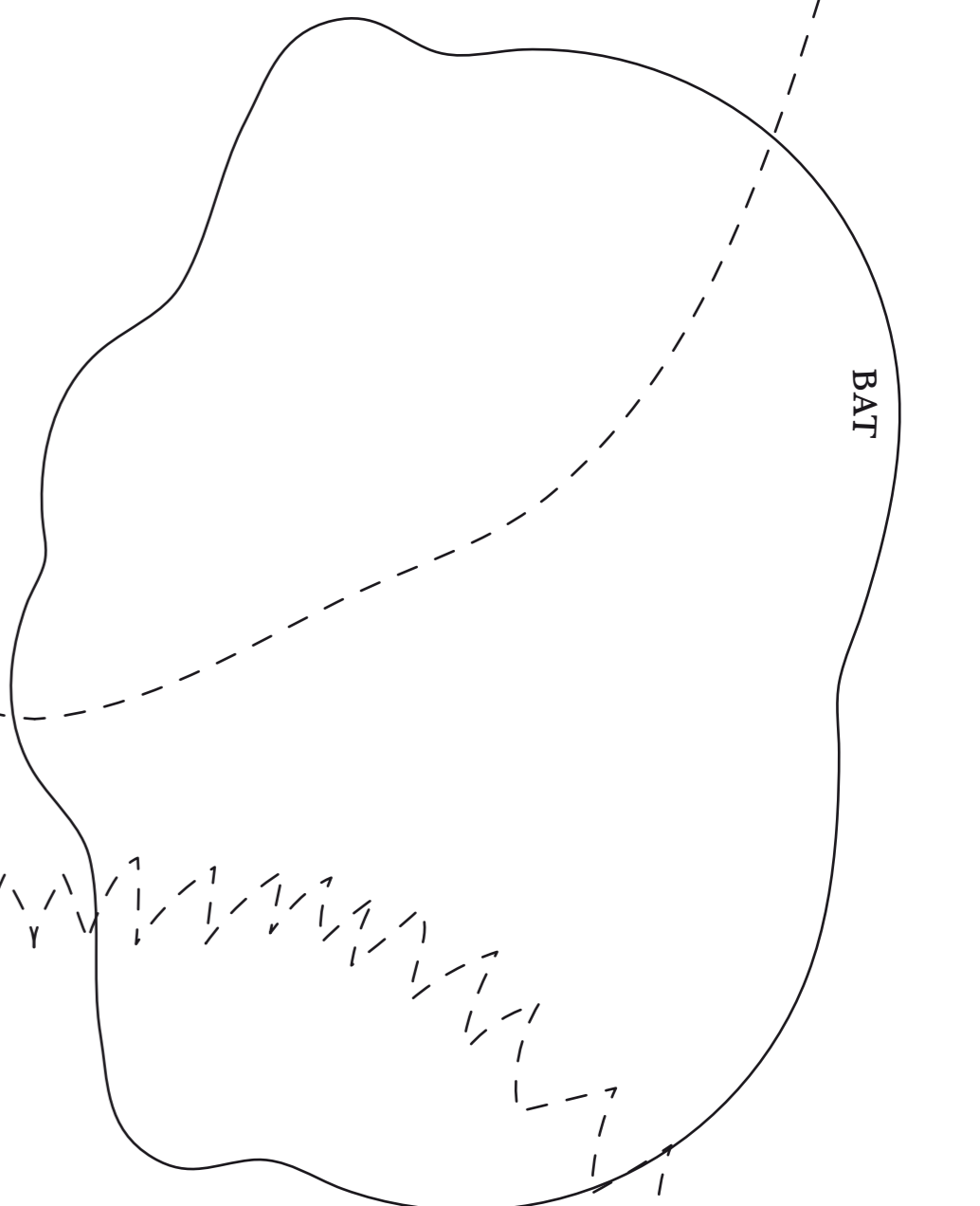
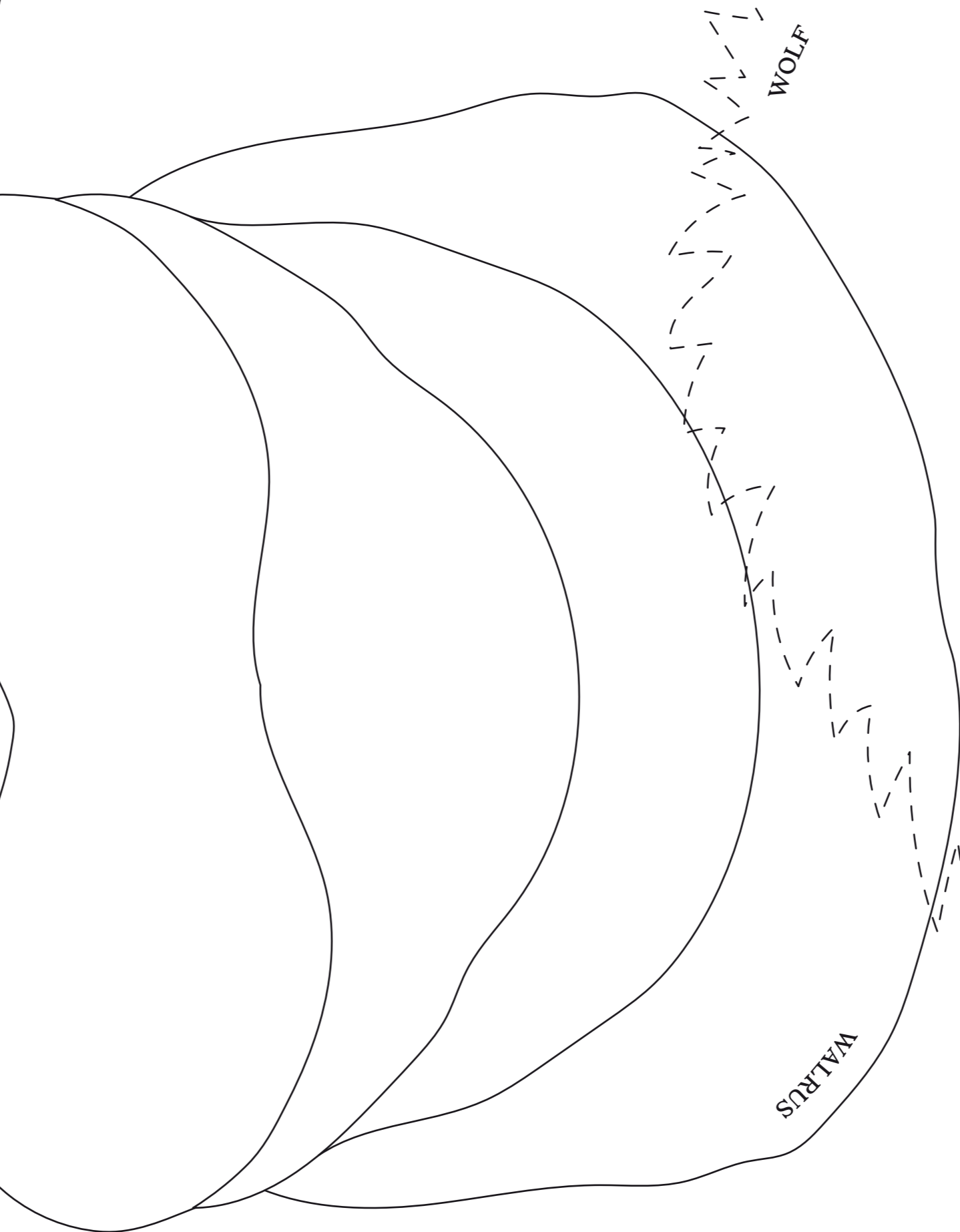
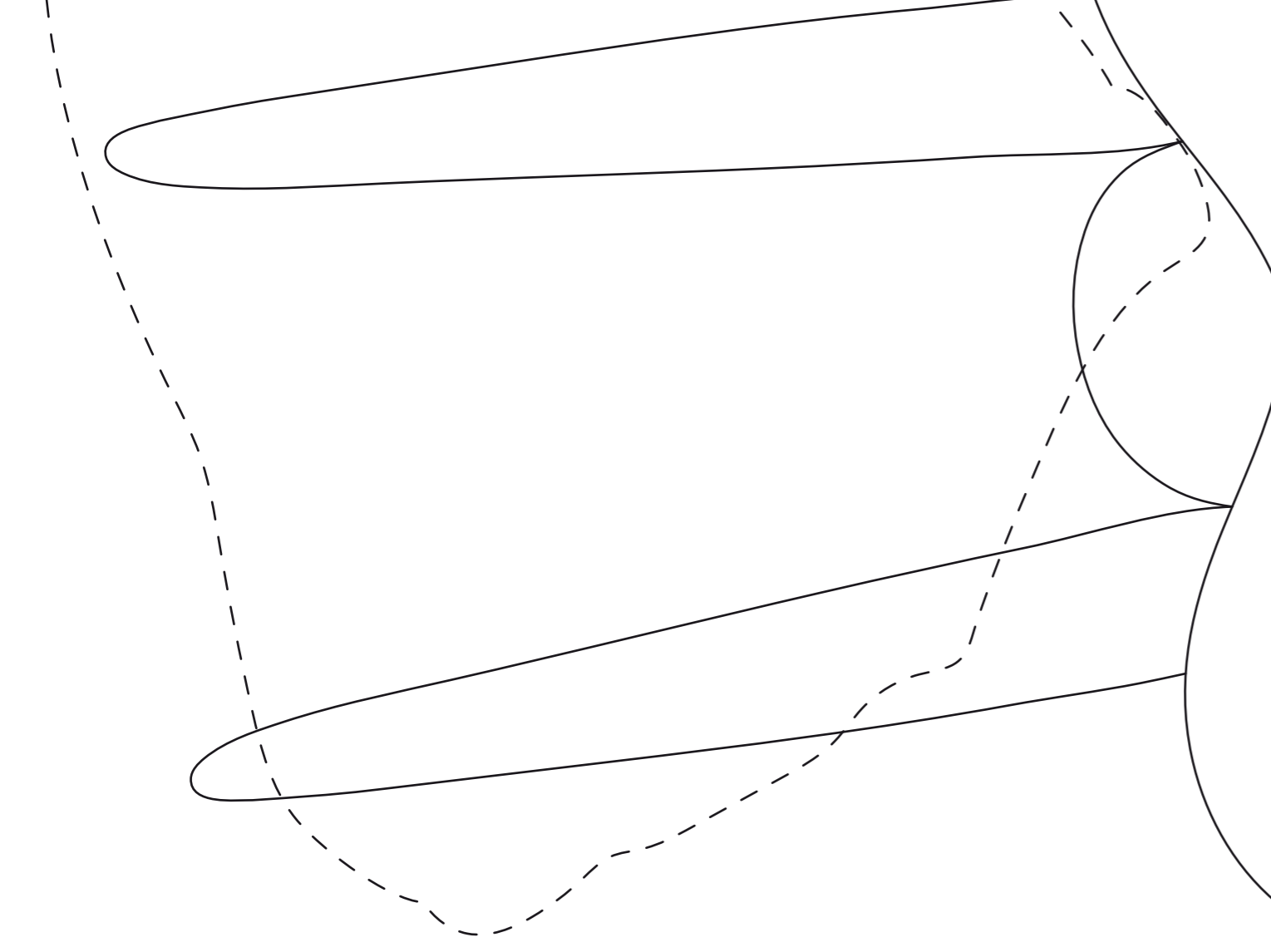
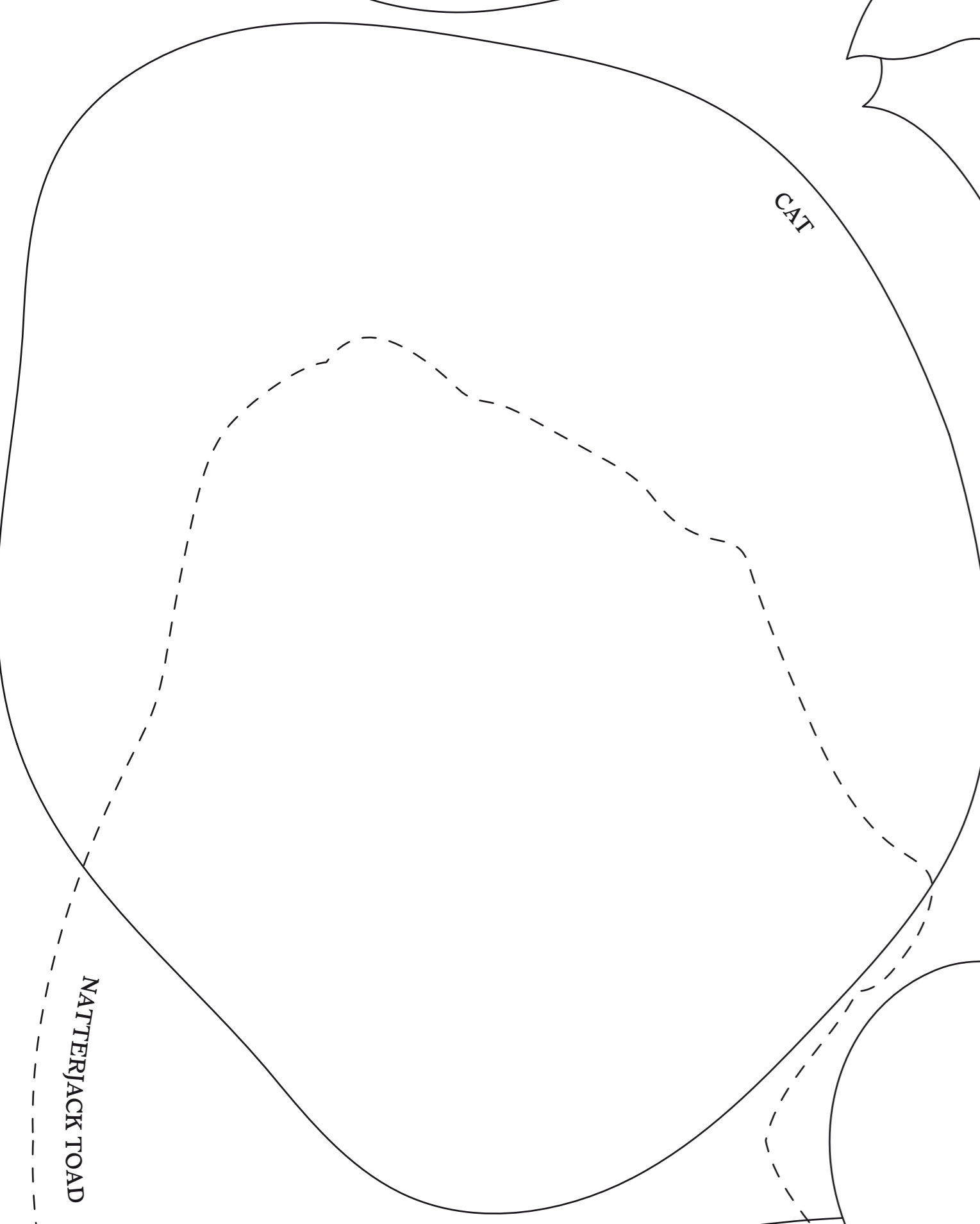
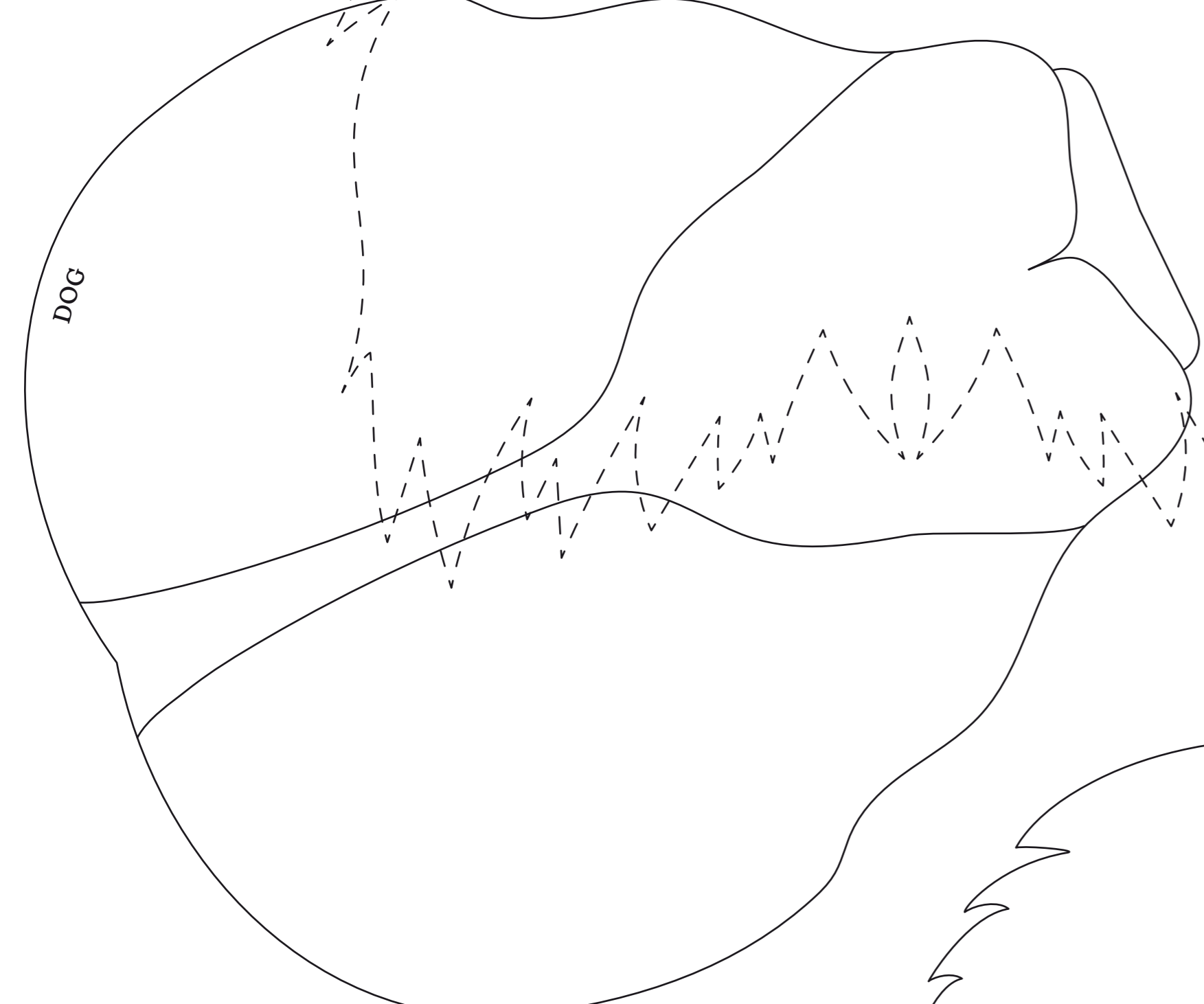
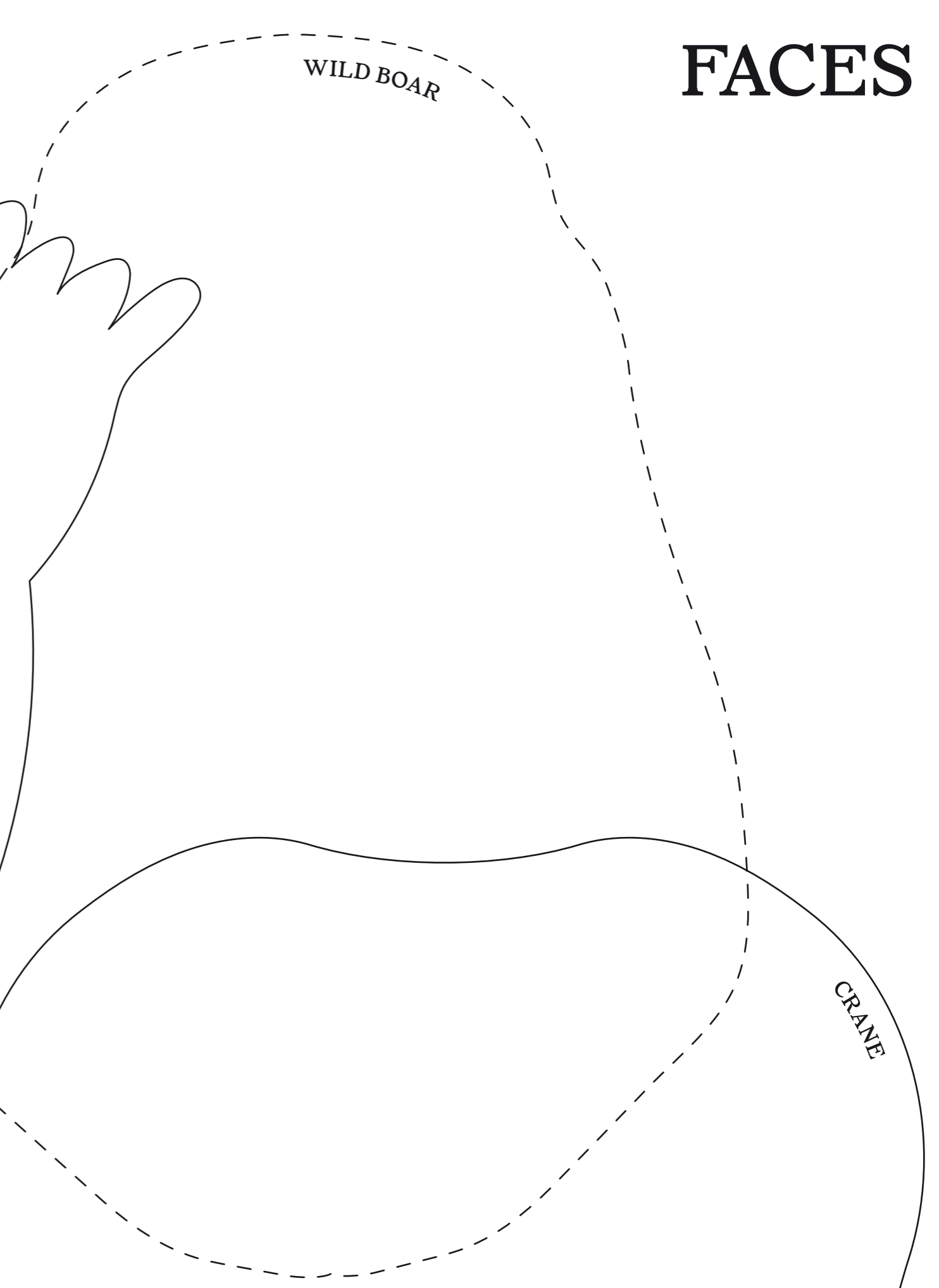
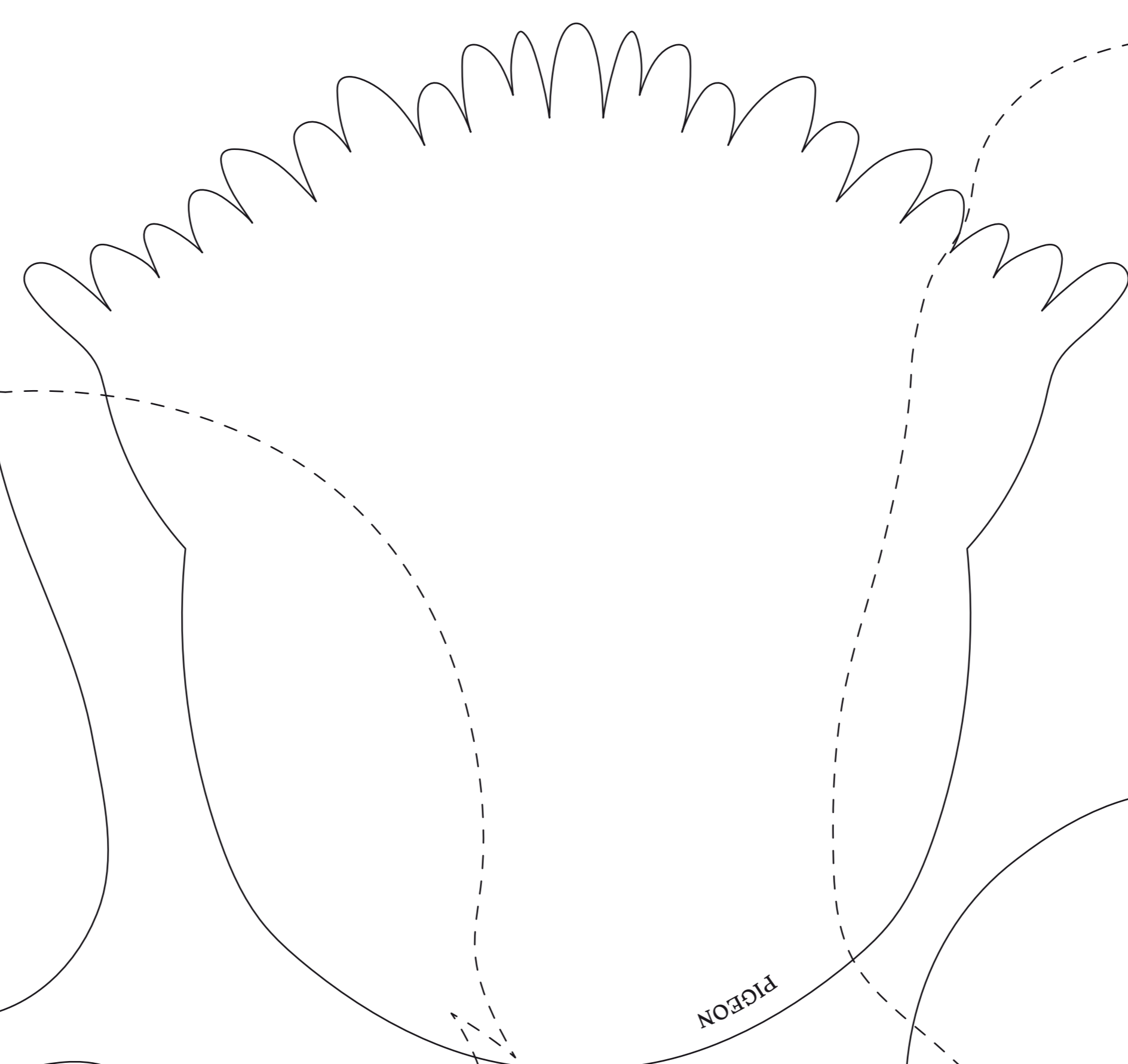
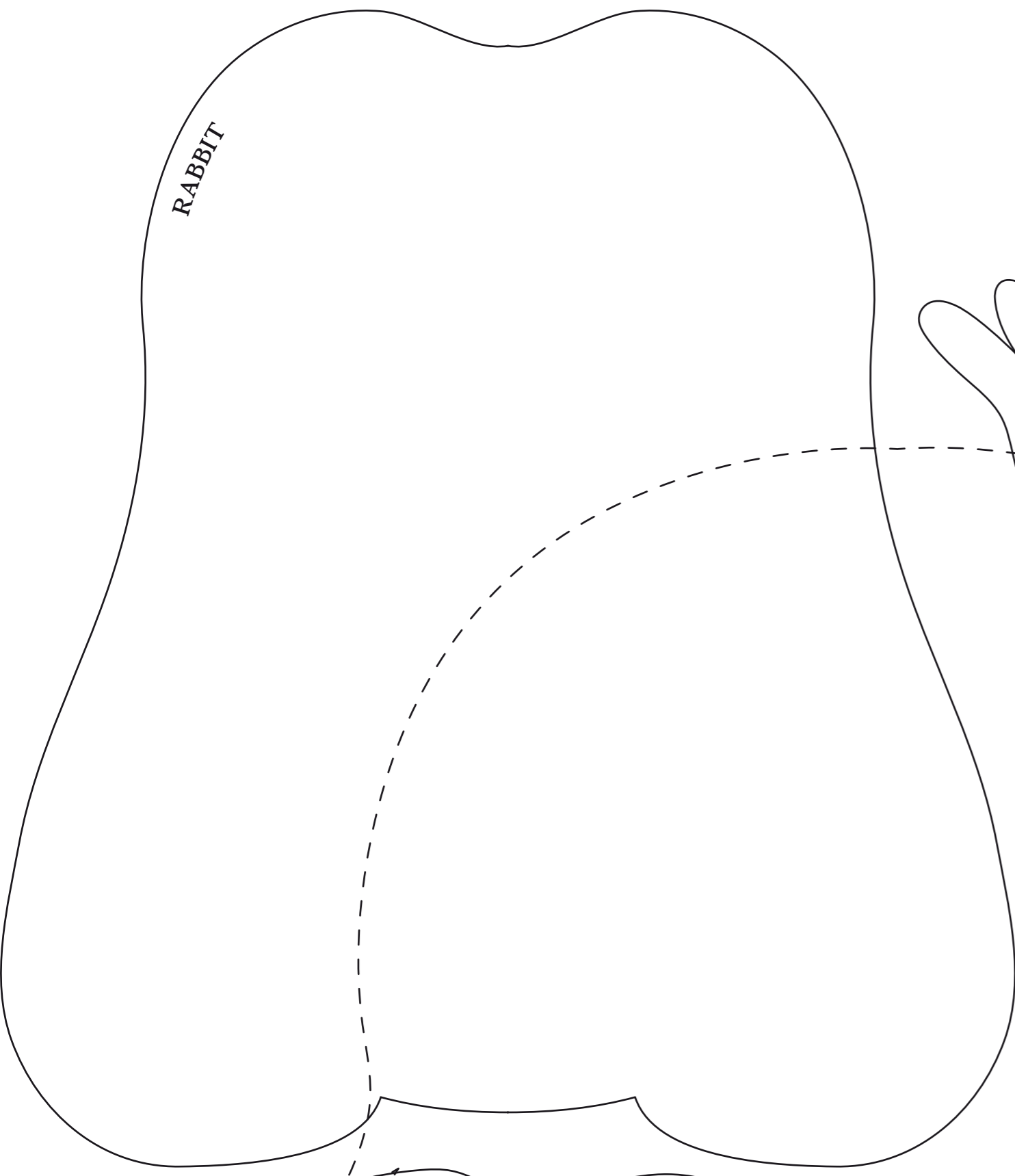


### Extinct Animals

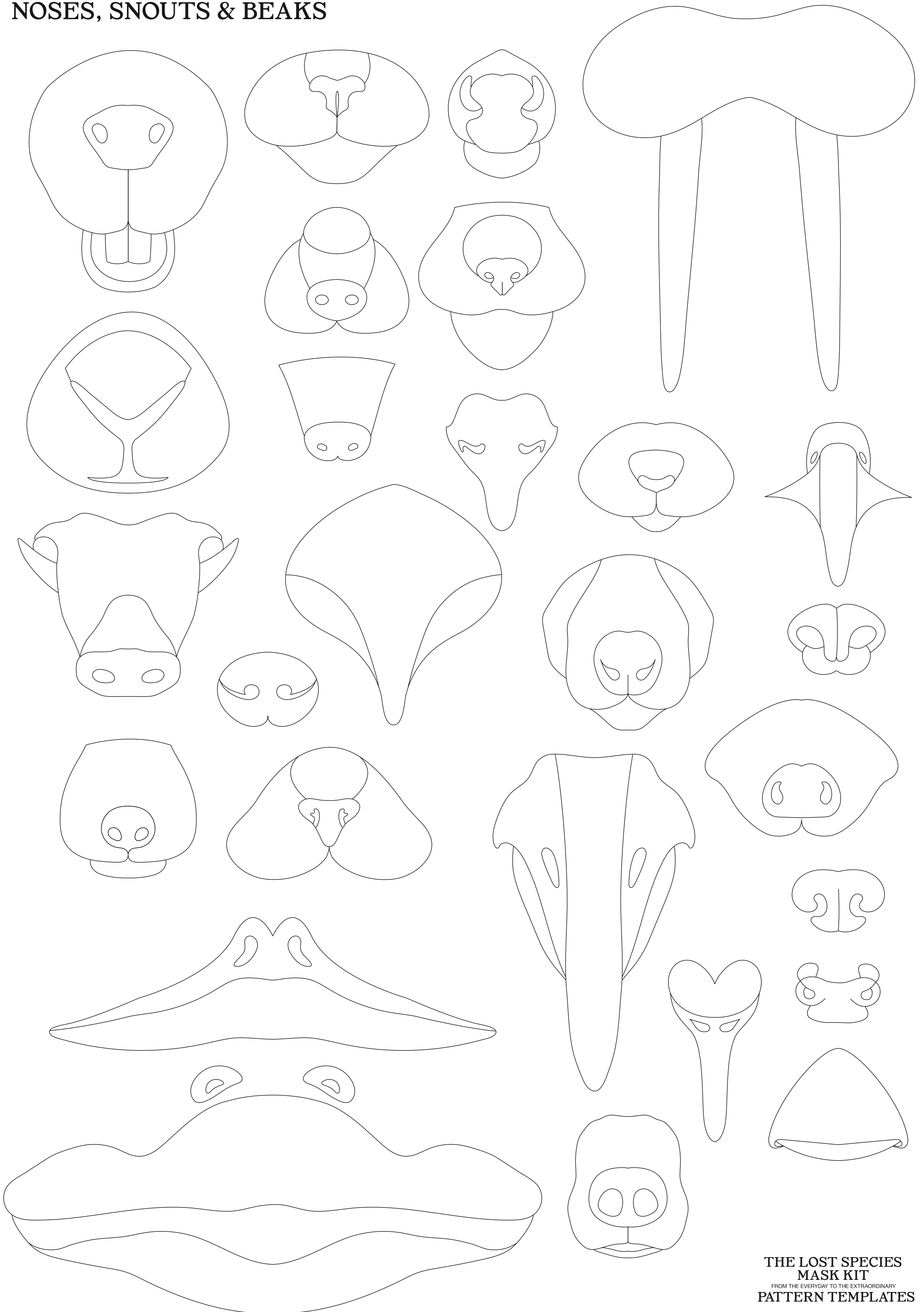




# FACES



# NOSES, SNOUTS & BEAKS



**EYES**



**EARS, HORNS & ANTENNAE**

The Lost Species Mask Kit has been supported by grants from the London College of Fashion (University of the Arts London) and the Centre for Critical Heritage Studies (University College London).

#### **Texts**

Professor Sophie Page (UCL)  
Professor Lucy Orta (UAL)  
[www.studio-orta.com](http://www.studio-orta.com)

#### **Graphic design**

Studio LP

#### **ISBN**

978-1-906908-72-0

If you would like further information about The Lost Species Handbook or *The Lost Species Mask Kit*, see: [www.sustainable-fashion.com](http://www.sustainable-fashion.com). To enquire about booking educational workshops, contact: [sustainability@fashion.arts.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@fashion.arts.ac.uk)



University College London:  
disruptive thinking since 1826

**ual:** london college  
of fashion



centre for  
sustainable fashion

University of the Arts London:  
because the world needs creativity