

# KITTEN TRAINING



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## WHY DOES MY KITTEN SCRATCH?

- It's normal for kittens and cats to scratch objects!
- They scratch to mark territory and to stretch, as well as remove the worn portion of their nails
- To avoid being scratched by your kitten, do not use your fingers or wiggle hands or feet while playing, instead use toys, laser pointers, or feathers on strings for them to chase/pounce on
- Environmental enrichment also reduces stress and scratching. (Playtime, perches, hiding spots)



## HOW DO I TRAIN MY KITTEN TO USE A SCRATCHING POST OR PAD?

- Cats will stretch and scratch when they wake up, so put one near their favorite sleeping spot
- Place the post/pad near the spot where they are currently scratching

## POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

- If you observe your kitten scratching in an undesired spot, pick them up and place them by their post/pad and give them a reward
- When they use their post/pad, reward them immediately (within 3 seconds)
- Feliscratch by Feliway helps redirect scratching to your desired location
  - To use, you just slowly apply the pipet to your cat's scratching post/pad, drawing 2-3 lines ( then repeat daily during the 1st week, skip week 2, then apply once during week 3 and 4.)

## WHAT ABOUT DECLAWING

- Declawing is a surgical procedure to remove your kitten's nails, which unfortunately involves amputating the last bone of each toe. This procedure is opposed by the American Association of Feline Practitioners

## WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND ATTEMPTING OTHER METHODS TO REDUCE SCRATCHING, SUCH AS:

- Train kittens and cats to use scratching posts
- Trimming nails regularly
- Temporary synthetic nail caps

## LITTER BOXES

- The general rule is to have one litter box per cat, plus an extra

## LOCATION

- Cats prefer a little peace and quiet when using the box
- Place the boxes in easily accessible areas that allow them an escape route

- Do not put boxes close to food or water dishes
- Try putting a box on each level of your home

## SIZE

- Bigger is better! The box should be at least 1 and 1/2 times the length of your cat from nose to tail
- Many cats don't like box liners or covers, but some do not mind

## LITTER TYPE

- Studies have shown that cats prefer unscented clumping litter, but every cat is different
- Clean waste from the box at least once a day
- Every 1-4 weeks, throw out all the litter, clean the box with soap and hot water and refill with fresh litter