



Cat Scratching Solutions

Why do cats scratch?

- Scratching is an instinctual trait for most cats. Some cats use scratching as a way to claim their territory since they have scent glands in their paws. Other cats use scratching as a form of relaxation, using the scratching post as a way to stretch their muscles. Most cats scratch simply because it feels good!

How do I find the right scratching post?

- Many cats may prefer to stand up when scratching, and will either prefer sisal or carpet covered scratching posts. If your cat instead prefers to scratch flat on the floor, look for cardboard or carpet covered scratching pads.

How do I get my cat to prefer the scratching post?

- Initially, you'll need to put the new scratching post near areas that the cat has scratched previously but most importantly, where the family spends most of their time. Cats are most interested in scratching as they try relax, so you'll need to keep the scratching post in the family area where you spend most of your time, not hidden in a corner or separate room. Once your kitty learns that the scratching post is their furniture, location can be adjusted, although still needs to be in the frequently used areas of your home.
- If your cat was scratching other furniture before you got a scratching post, you may need to use these tactics to discourage scratching on inappropriate objects. First, place the kitty in front of the scratching post and begin petting her to encourage good feelings about the scratching post. Then you may need to cover areas of other furniture with double sided tape to distract the cat from future scratching. Your kitty has also marked the furniture with their scent so cleaning the furniture may help to remove scents left behind.

When do I need to get a scratching post?

- As soon as you introduce a new kitty to your home! Teaching the proper scratching habits starts right away as cats are creatures of habit. If you're starting with a kitten, you may have purchased a smaller scratching post. Be sure the scratching post height grows with the kitty. If the scratching post is too short, the value of stretching is lost and alternative scratching sources will be found by your kitty.

Do I need to trim my cat's nails?

- Regular trimming of your kitty's nails may help to both deter scratching as well as alleviate painful situations where the cat's nail may become stuck. Some cats will allow for nail trimming better than others. Patience is key when attempting the trim your cat's nails; it's not necessary to do them all at one time. And while it may be possible to trim your cat's nails by yourself, it's often easier with two people. If you'd like additional assistance with trimming your cat's nails, we're happy to help show you the process! Just contact us by email (animalrescueconnections@gmail.com) to arrange a meeting.