



Kitten Aggression Prevention

Tips on how to prevent scratching and setting up a scratch post

Scratch-Post Preferences:

- Preferences vary: horizontal versus vertical, raking versus repeatedly picking at one spot
- Offer a variety of scratching posts, observe your cat, and then provide additional scratching areas that meet your cat's specific preferences (wrapped sisal good for picking, carpet better for raking, and cardboard works for both)

Scratch-Post Placement:

- Near doors for marking behavior
- Near favorite napping areas for stretching exercise
- Next to any furniture your cat has tried to scratch
- In your cat's play area

Introducing the scratch-post:

- Attach catnip or a toy to the top of the post to encourage investigation of the post
- Scratch the post with your fingers while your cat watches

Preventing scratching in inappropriate areas:

- Cat-proof the house to prevent scratching on inappropriate objects: turn speakers to save the wall, cover edges of the couch with plastic or tin foil, place a carpet runner under the drapes, and block access to tempting areas
- If caught in the act, use an air horn blast or a squirt of water to interrupt scratching

Dealing with play aggression

Prevention:

- Schedule daily playtime using a cat dancer or other toy
- Provide a variety of toys: toys to pounce on, toys to swat at and carry around, and toys to crawl through
- Avoid using hands and feet when playing with your cat

Response to attacks;

- Redirect behavior onto toys, If you know the cat always attacks your feet coming down the stairs, throw a toy down the stairs before descending
- Use an air horn or squirt of water if the cat attacks before you can redirect the attack onto a toy
- If bitten during play, stand up and walk away, don't allow behavior to continue