



Want your cats
and your
furniture to live
together in
peace?

Destructive scratching
problems are 100%
correctable. Giving your
cat some suitable
scratching targets and
encouraging their use is
generally all it takes!



For ideas on how to
eliminate problem
scratching and
encourage healthy
scratching, read on!

Visit us online at www.friendsofpets.org

Spay/Neuter Assistance - (907) 562-2535

Adoption Hotline - (907) 561-3677

Information Center - (907) 562-2535

P.O. Box 240981
Anchorage, AK 99524-0981



SAVE THE SOFA



SAVE THE PAWS

*Smart solutions to
cat scratching problems*



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KEEP AWAY!



While your cat is learning what surfaces are ok for scratching, here are some ways to discourage the cat from areas you want to protect. Remember this is temporary—with patience and consistency, your cat will learn the “legal” places to scratch.

Temporary tips to take the fun out of furniture

- Put double-sided carpet tape on the surface you want to protect. Cats don't like sticky paws!
- Put a length of plastic carpet runner (pointy side UP) around the area, so kitty has no place to stand.
- Cover the area with netting, shelf paper, bubble wrap or foil.
- Scent the area with citrus room spray or peel, diluted perfume, enzyme odor eliminator, 50/50 water-vinegar mixture, or unscented aluminum-based antiperspirant. Test areas for staining first.
- If your cat begins to scratch in a place that's off-limits, startle it by clapping your hands, shaking a soda can with several pennies in it, or hitting the wall or table with your hand. Don't say a word and don't hit the cat!
- *Always* give the cat a place to scratch.



A cat's toe is a complex system of bone and claw, muscle, tendons, ligaments and nerves. Because cats walk on their toes (rather than on the soles of their feet, like humans do), scratching is part of how a cat maintains healthy paws.

HEALTHY CLAWS, HAPPY CATS

While trying the ideas in this brochure, remember to:

- Clip your cat's claws every two weeks.
- Give your cat lots of love and attention.



WE CAN HELP!

Call us for extra problem-solving or to share your own good ideas. We also can give you plans to build your own scratching tree!

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HAPPY SCRATCHING!

Cats *must* have places to scratch in order to stay healthy and happy. Here are some ways to train cats to scratch where YOU want them to.

Sink your claws into these ideas

- Provide different kinds of scratching posts or pads in several locations. The backing of old carpet pieces is great for scratching!
- Give the cat both upright (vertical) and flat (horizontal) surfaces to try.
- Start with a post/pad near the already scratched furniture, then *gradually* move it toward your preferred location. Feed special treats at the scratching area and sprinkle it weekly with catnip.
- Play games with your cat around the post—try a fishing pole toy!
- Don't force kitty's paws onto the post. Show the cat by scratching it yourself.
- Until it is fully trained, put the cat in a “scratch-proof” room whenever you are away. This keeps bad habits from returning.
- If your cat likes to scratch in plants or shrubs, cover the top of the soil with polished rocks.