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

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

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

Visit us online at www.friendsofpets.org

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

Information Center (907) 562-2535
Adoption Hotline (907) 561-3677
Spay/Neuter Assistance (907) 562-2535

www.friendsofpets.org
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.

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.

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.