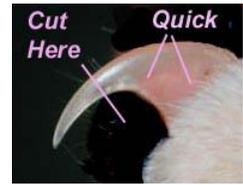


# Cats and Claws, Happily Ever After

## Trimming

Keep your kitty's claws trimmed. Taking that nail tip off every 2-4 weeks will minimize any damage caused by inappropriate scratching. Since cat's claws are translucent and you can see the quick, they are fairly easy to trim. You only need to remove the tip. If you are not comfortable doing it, most vets offer vet tech appointments where they will trim the nails for a minimal fee. They can also demonstrate to you how it is done. If you're nervous about it, remember you don't need to do all four paws in one sitting. You can just trim one nail a day.



## Choosing Appropriate Scratching Options

There are many scratching options available, you just need to figure out what your cat likes. If you purchase a scratching option and find that your cat ignores it, return it to the store. Most stores have no issue with you doing this. Options include various combinations of style and material.

**Style:** Upright, Angled, and Flat/Mat

**Material:** sisal rope, logs/softwood boards, corrugated cardboard, sisal mat, carpet

Your cat may only love angled carpet scratchers or they may be fans of sisal mat scratchers. You just need to find the right combination. Don't stop at one option either. Some cats have a couple of favorites. Whatever you choose for your cat to try, make sure that it is big enough for kitty to stretch out completely and is sturdy enough that it won't move or rock while they scratch. Our favorite post is the Ultimate Scratching Post (cheapest online). It's tall enough for most cats and very sturdy.

### Placement:

Put your scratching options throughout your home. If kitty is scratching the couch, place the scratcher next to the couch. You can slowly move it farther away once the cat is using it reliably.

## Training

If your cat is scratching in the wrong place, go and get them and move them to the appropriate surface. You can gently move their little paws against the scratcher, mimicking the scratching action. You can reinforce the behavior by praising them and giving them treats when they scratch in the appropriate place. Rubbing catnip on the scratcher and playing with a toy on it also help convince your kitty this is a good place to scratch.

## Deterrence

Make the inappropriate scratching surfaces unattractive to your cat:

- Double-sided sticky tape (Sticky Paws)
- Non-stick furniture protectors (Corner Savers, Fresh Kitty Furniture Protectors)
- Tin Foil
- Pet repellent sprays
- Access restriction (upside-down vinyl rug runner)
- Remote aversive devices (Sssscat)
- Pheromones (Feliway Diffusers)
- Furniture covers (blankets, towels – anything loose will not be appealing to your cat)

## Protection

If you need the damage to stop immediately, you can apply Soft Paws to your cat's nails. These little rubber caps glue onto the nail and stay on for approximately 4 weeks before falling off. They completely protect your things. But they do not teach your cat where to scratch. If you are not comfortable applying the nail caps, most vet clinics will do this for a minimal fee and show you how to do this. (You will need to provide your own claw caps.)

**We've been doing rescue for several years and have never had a situation where nails could not be managed via nail clipping, soft paws, exercise, and availability of appropriate scratching items.**