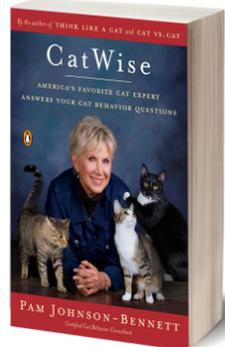


CATWISE



SCRATCHING POST BASICS



THE NEED TO SCRATCH

Cats have a natural need to scratch and it isn't based on the desire to be destructive. Scratching keeps the claws conditioned and it allows the cat to leave a visual and olfactory mark. Scratching helps kitty stretch back and shoulder muscles as well. It's also a way to displace anxiety, anticipation or excitement.

TALL AND STURDY POST

Look for a post that is tall and sturdy. This way, your cat can reach up and get a full body stretch. The base should be heavy and wide so your cat can lean her full weight against it without the risk of having it topple over.



TEXTURE MATTERS

Avoid posts covered in carpet because they are too soft and ineffective. The cat's nails can also get caught in the carpet loops. The texture most cats prefer for scratching is sisal.

PUT THE POST IN THE RIGHT PLACE

The scratching post may not be the most attractive addition to your decor but don't hide it in the room where your cat doesn't spend time. Place the post where your cat is currently scratching. If you have more than one cat, get additional posts and place them in each cat's preferred area.



SCRATCH PADS WORK FOR HORIZONTAL SCRATCHERS

Some cats prefer to scratch horizontally. You can get horizontal sisal-covered scratch pads or you can buy corrugated cardboard pads. Corrugated cardboard pads come in both flat horizontal or incline. These pads are inexpensive and fun to place in several locations where your cat spends time.

USE A LITTLE CATNIP

If your cat isn't getting the idea of what the scratching post is for, or if you're trying to renew a cat's interest in the post, rub a little catnip on it. If you've constructed a home-made post, rub catnip on it before offering it to your cat as an added treat. Most of the corrugated cardboard scratch pads are already treated with catnip for added enticement.

