



Jasper County Animal Rescue League and Humane Society
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Cat Toys

Why do cats need toys?

Cats are active and intelligent animals. Toys provide cats with ways to expend both physical and mental energy.

What kind of toys does my cat need?

Y Active toys – these toys require the cat to chase, pounce on or bat at. Listed below are some examples:

- Plastic balls with bells inside
- Paper bags without handles. Cats love to hide in and pounce on them. Avoid plastic bags because cats may try to ingest the bag.
- Cardboard boxes are another good hiding spot
- Any small light object that cats can bat around, throw up in the air and carry in their mouth. Fake mice or fuzzy balls work nicely.
- Toys that deliver a treat when scratched or manipulated
- Toys that dangle from a door (be sure the cat does not try to eat the string)

Y Comfort toys – these toys allow the cat to cuddle with or to “kill”. Listed below are some examples:

- Soft, stuffed toys filled with safe material provide a nice cuddle mate or prey item. The toy should be small enough for the cat to carry around but big enough for the cat to “bunny kick” if desired.
- In general if the toy is safe for a 3-year-old child, it is okay for your cat.

Y Interactive toys – these are toys that you and your cat can play with together.

- Toys to throw so the cat can chase (you can teach a cat to fetch)
- Cat dancer or fishing pole has an object that is attached to the end of the pole or wire that moves around as the cat jumps at it. Usually they require a human participant to hold the other end.
- Toys that are attached to a string to chase while a person drags the toy around the house.

Y Catnip – a perfectly safe plant substance some cats enjoy.

- Some cats won't respond to catnip, especially if they are very young. Others may have an exaggerated response and may become aggressive.
- Catnip filled toys may entice some cats to bat at or throw into the air.
- Crushed catnip sprinkled on the floor usually entices cats to roll, eat and play in and is perfectly safe.
- Catnip sprays are generally not very effective.

A word about safety:

- ./ Make sure no small parts on the toys can be removed and ingested (like eyes, string, or loose bells).
- ./ Cat proof your house and toys. Do not allow the cat to play with any string/yarn unsupervised. Other items that may be harmful include rubber bands, milk jug rings, paper clips, pins or anything that might be ingested.
- ./ Supervise your cat with any new toy to make sure he can't chew it apart or ingest any part of it.

Getting the most out of the toys:

- ! Rotate the toys every few days to keep the cat's interest and the toys "new".
- ! Hide toys and treats around the house for your cat to find when you are gone.

