



Toys are a wonderful way for you and your cat to have fun together! Some toys are also especially designed to stimulate your cat's mind so he can have fun while you are gone. You always want to make sure you are picking the right toys for your cat and that they are used properly for safety reasons.

Picking the Right Toy

- **Texture:** Cats are very tactile animals and can be very picky about the texture of a toy. Some cats like soft or plush toys, some like strings, and others like crinkle toys. Always buy a variety of toys in order to figure out which is the best for your cat.
- **Scented Toys:** Some cats are very interested in different scents, so you might want to choose a good smelling toy. Some scents that cats like are catnip and lavender.
- **Supervision:** Always supervise your cat with new toys. Some cats destroy and ingest certain toys so always supervise them with any new toy until you can be sure that they will not eat the toy.

Keeping Your Cat's Interest

- **Rotation:** The best way to keep your cat's interest in toys is to rotate them. If you leave all the toys accessible to your cat all the time they will get bored with them and might find other "toys", like your furniture to play with. Have a toy drawer or chest to keep all your cat's toys in and bring out only 2 or 3 each day. Your cat will think that he is getting new toys every day and might be more interested in them.
- **Interactive Toys:** If your cat is not too interested in the toys laying around the house you might need to be more creative. Make the toys more interactive by moving them around and hiding them so the cat can hunt and pounce. This will make the toys more interesting to your cat and give him quality time to spend with you as well.

Cautions

- **Cat Proofing:** Unfortunately some of the most attractive "toys" to your cat are items that they are not supposed to have or that are dangerous to them. Make sure to cat-proof your home by picking up anything that is dangerous for your cat or valuable to you such as plastic, string, or plants. This will create a safer environment for your cat and encourage them to play with the appropriate toys.

- **Your Hand is Not a Toy:** Sometimes younger kittens can mistake your hand for a fun toy, which can be painful to you. It takes a little while for cats to realize that our skin is much more fragile than another cat's skin & fur so they might be a bit rough. Always have a toy when playing with your cat and never encourage hand playing. If your cat does scratch or bite your hand make a noise that indicates pain and remove yourself from play; this will take away the attention your cat was getting and he will realize that if he wants to play he cannot bite.

Toy Recommendations

- **Texture Toys: try toys with different textures**

- Soft/plush toys
- Crinkle toys
- Feather toys
- Harder rubber toys

- **Interactive Toys: Toys that allow you to interact with your cat**

- String toys
- Wand toys
- Motorized toys: move on their own, powered by batteries
- Laser pointer: be careful, make sure to have an end point to this play so they don't constantly look for the laser (say "all done" or have them 'catch' a different toy)

- **Food Puzzle Toys: Toys that you can give unsupervised to stimulate your cat's mind**

- Cat Kong
- Kong Wobbler
- Kong treat ball
- Busy-Buddy products

- **Scented Toys: Toys with different scents**

- Catnip Toys
- Lavender Toys
- Honeysuckle Toys

Maintenance

Not all cats like all toys. Always remember to experiment with new toys and rotate old ones. Get creative, cats love to explore so you can try almost anything safe even shoe boxes to hide in!