

FELINE BEHAVIOR: WAND TOY PLAY

Interactive wand toy play is a great way to address your cat's natural predatory needs necessary for their physical and mental wellbeing. It can also be another way to improve the bond with your cat.

PREDATORY SEQUENCE

- Search
- Locate/Stare
- Stalk/Chase
- Pounce
- Capture
- Kill
- Consume

Mimic
complete
sequence

SIMULATE PREY MOVEMENT

Moving toys are fun! Explore different toy methods as well as materials such as furry toys, feathers, and rope/fleece so you can tailor the experience to your cat's preferences

SMALL MAMMALS

Drag toy away from or to side of your cat rather quickly with multiple stops and starts

FLYING BIRDS

Fly toys through the air not too high above, occasionally letting them hop on the ground

REPTILE

Zig zag movement on the ground

BUGS

Hover slightly overhead or on ground and dance

LET YOUR CAT CATCH THE TOY OFTEN

This is a crucial part of the sequence and will prevent frustration. The moment your cat let's go or disengages start moving the toy again.

END PLAY SLOWLY AND GRADUALLY

Towards the end of the session slow down movement to help your cat calm down. Offer treats at the end of a sequence to mimic the end of the predatory sequence.

SOME EXAMPLES



There are unlimited varieties and combinations

ADDITIONAL TIPS

PUT AWAY AFTER PLAY

Wand toys are to be interactive between you and your cat, so hide it away until next session

WHEN TO PLAY

- Twice daily for 5 -10minutes (am & pm)
- Before a meal
- Before bedtime
- Most active times

PLACEMENT OF TOY

- Avoid moving toy too close to your cat's face or bumping them in the head with the toy
- Move toy under tissue paper or fabric
- Speed up and slow down can add interest
- Adjust difficulty pending your cats abilities and interest

PLAY TIME NOT PET TIME

Your cat is focused on play, avoid trying to pet them during this time as they can become agitated and redirect their prey-play intentions on you

NOTE: If your cat starts to increase intensity of play or seems to be out of control (some signs may be dilated pupils, wide eyes, fixated stare, ears back, tail flicking and lashing, staring/stalking/swatting your legs/hands), then stop play...

- Redirect by tossing treats or a self-play toy
- Give your cat space
- Avoid punishment