

Interactive CAT Play

by Dr. Mikel Delgado



Toys that are left lying on the floor are “dead”. They are boring. Fun toys are like **prey**! They are usually small and quiet, and **they move**!

Playing is an **interactive** experience: a simulated hunting experience that gives cats physical exercise and stimulates their brains. We tailor our play to our individual cat's needs. Are they a generalist or a specialist?

Playing is also a way to bond with our cat. Not all cats like to be cuddled.

Make play a daily habit or activity. eg, before their dinner or bedtime, and whenever they have the zoomies! Just as dogs need to go out for walks and to sniff, cats need **enrichment** and shouldn't be sleeping all day.

Prey Types

for the SPECIALIST HUNTER*

feathers eg, Da Bird



mouse-like eg, Cat Catcher



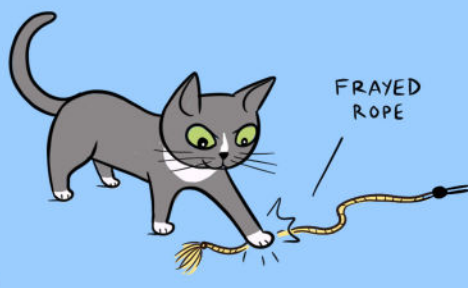
drag it away or across

bug-like eg, Cat Dancer

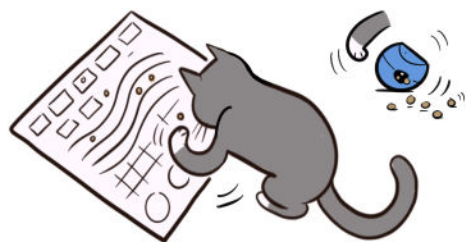


good for shy cats
jiggle gently

snake-like eg, Bamboozler



FRAYED
ROPE



food puzzles

Introduce as a choice and never force. Many cats enjoy these.
foodpuzzlesforcats.com



laser toys

...can be frustrating because cats can't catch them. Best use for short periods as a warm-up, then switch to a real toy.

NOVELTY: Rotate the toys to keep things interesting!

*For safety reasons, interactive toys with string/wire should be stored securely after play.

Play Tips

- **ALTERNATE SPEED OF MOVEMENT.**
Try slow movements. Barely moving.

- **MOVE AWAY** from your cat or along a L-R plane.

- **MOVE UNDER SOMETHING.**



- Sounds of **RUSTLING** or **CRUNCHINESS** are exciting!

- **LET THEM WAIT.**
Don't make it too easy or it will be boring.

- **NOT TOO CLOSE.**
Cats can see the toy best when it is a few feet away.

- **Give the FULL HUNTING EXPERIENCE** - paws, mouth, and whiskers!

- Most importantly, **HAVE FUN** playing with your little hunter!



Have you played with your cat TODAY?

