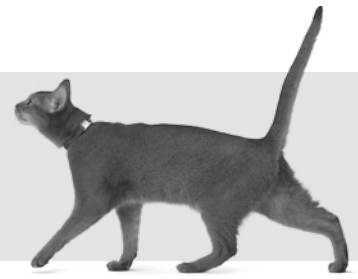


# Destructive Scratching Solutions

## BEHAVIOR SERIES



Your cat is engaging in normal feline scratching behavior targeted at household items. Scratching serves many functions for the cat, including a communication tool (leaving both scent and visual marks at the site), a way to clean and condition the claw beds, and a great way to stretch the muscles of the legs and toes.

### Prepare:

- Identify your cat's preferred scratching scenario by studying where your cat inappropriately scratches:
  - Surface orientation (horizontal or vertical surfaces)
  - Substrates/materials where your cat scratches
  - Location(s) in home
- Buy or build scratching posts/pads that mimic your cat's preferred scratching set up:
  - Horizontal or vertical orientation
  - Vertical posts should be tall and sturdy
  - Fabric or material that allows a good grip; this may be woven fabric/carpet/soft wood/sisal rope, etc.

### Placement:

- Position scratching posts/pads in location(s) that are:
  - Near favored inappropriate targets
  - Near resting spots (cats often stretch and scratch upon awakening)
  - Near prominent pathways
- Encourage use of scratching post/pad by:
  - Sprinkling cat nip on it
  - Playing with toys on/around it
  - Rewarding with treats
  - Spraying with Feliway® pheromone

### Discourage:

- Discourage use of inappropriate targets by:
  - Covering with aversive substrate (double sided tape) or commercial repellent spray
- Motion activated deterrents
  - Use spray bottle filled with water

**The goal of intervention is not to stop the scratching behavior, but to redirect onto appropriate targets. Avoid direct harsh physical reprimands.**



For additional information, please contact your Banfield medical team.

