



Blue Springs

Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



Scratching Posts

- Find a post with a surface that the cat likes. It should be stable and tall enough for the cat. Besides commercial carpet-covered posts, try a fireplace log secured to plywood base or a rope covered post. Be creative.
- Every time the pet approaches the post, toss a very small treat to it. When it touches the post, toss a bigger treat, and when it scratches the post give it a big treat.

To discourage scratching furniture:

- Keep the pet within eyesight at all times when you are at home. Whenever it starts to scratch furniture, interrupt the behavior with a high power water gun, or toss a beanbag **near** the cat.
- Whenever you can't watch the pet confine it to a room with the scratching post, remove all other items it might scratch.
- Hang a towel over the side of the furniture with six empty aluminum cans on top of the towel. When the cat scratches, the cans will come tumbling down.
- Cover the furniture with plastic or canvas drop clothes.
- Attach a tissue with a strong citrus fragrance to the side of the furniture.

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