



November / December Mews 2010

❄️ **Happy Holidays** ❄️
Born to Scratch by Dr. Thompson

After a close call with a **coyote** I was glad my cat, Humvee, had his claws to scale the fence back to safety. (electric fence had failed). With all the controversy over declawing understanding the behavioral aspects of scratching is needed to provide *alternatives to surgery*. Scratching serves to mark territory with visual and possibly scent marking from pads. It also conditions the claws, stretches the body (kitty yoga) and exercises the muscles and tendons for claw usage (a cat essential).

Outdoor cats tend to scratch along a regularly traveled route while inside cats choose one or more locations where they spend most of their time. These marks may be for territory but also may serve as security and exercise places. Cats often scratch and stretch upon awakening. It feels good!

Preferred material for outside cats is wood (decks, trees, posts) and unfortunately the insider likes your couch and carpet. Location of a sturdy, upright or vertical scratching post near areas of destruction is important. The post must be long enough for the cat to stretch (remember the back of that chair you loved?) and heavy enough not to be knocked over. It should be covered with the most desirable material for your cat. Even fabric from a previously clawed item wrapped on the post can entice the beast.



cont. on pg. 2



HOLIDAY HAZARDS !

- Don't eat ribbon, tinsel, string or too much turkey.
- Poinsettias irritate your tummy... don't indulge.
- Don't get lost in the shuffle if you are elderly. Get your bi-annual checkup for geriatric care: heart, kidney, thyroid, aches and pains, teeth, blood pressure... the whole fruit cake.
- Send your picture to enter the monthly contest:
felinedocs@sbcglobal.net
- Visit our website to see the past contests and all that we do at the Feline Clinic. **Happy and peaceful Holidays to all!**



Moxie Mulqueen

THE MEWS

For a new kitty carpeted posts seem to work fine but you should provide vertical wood or cardboard items as well for choice. The post(s) should be where you and your cat spend the most time; this may mean the living room and also where kitty sleeps. *(or the post that holds up your deck cover, my cats estimate 2020 for post failure at this rate!)*

Can clawing behavior be changed once started?

Punishment does not work to change innate

social behavior. Even declawed cats go through

the motions to scratch. Moving the post to a more desirable lo-

cation, providing multiple types of scratching surfaces, covering old places with

plastic or double-sided tape and rewarding the good behavior with treats can

help. Clipping long claws reduces destruction but won't change the behavior.

Plastic claw caps can be applied as well to protect furniture if kitty cooperates.

This is a distressing problem for many cat lovers but with patience many kitties

can be redirected to suitable locations for their behavior. Tell us what you think

about declawing (onychectomy)? Do you think it should be made illegal in the

United States? Some cities have outlawed the surgery. **Pro Choice? Pro claw?**

Email us at felinedocs@sbcglobal.net with your opinion.



Home demolition



Cat Gifts

Quality food is a gift for a long healthy life.

Cat nip pillows and mice.

A nice warm bed or cozy mat to put by the fire.

Fly fishing toys to encourage activity in the elderly and reduce boredom for insiders.

A gift certificate for services or goods at the clinic for your cat loving friends.

Stockings and cards to fund cat rescue or a donation to CC4C or the SPCA.

Topsy Turvey Raffle

Help support our Topsy Turvey fund for homeless cats! This tote is loaded with healthy treats, toys and products for your best friend.

\$2 /ticket ! or
10 for \$15

- * Advantage
- * Royal Canin
- * Laurel Burch bag
- * Greenies
- * Litter mat
- * Furminator
- * and more.....

