



WHY CATS BITE

and how to avoid being bitten



Cats may bite while playing, asking for space or defending themselves. Like many animal species, biting is a form of communication for cats. As a cat owner, it's important to recognize what may lead a cat to bite and how to prevent biting behavior.

Body language speaks volumes

Observe your cat for these common warning signs:

- Cat's tail beginning to twitch.
- Ears turning back or flicking back and forth.
- Cat's skin rippling when petted.
- Low growling, agitated meowing.
- Dilated pupils, hard eye contact.



Advocate for safety and prevent bites

A safe environment protects both people and animals

- Give your cat space if they show signs of stress or discomfort.
- Allow cats a safe, quiet place to be alone and decompress.
- Always supervise children and other animals around your cat.
- Never punish a cat for biting - this could increase biting behavior.
- Cats should never be left unattended outdoors or allowed to roam.



**Notice a recent
change in behavior?**

Any changes in behavior should be discussed with your cat's veterinarian to rule out any underlying medical concerns.



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ANIMAL SERVICES
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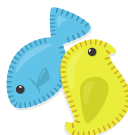
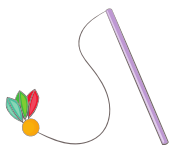
Just like people, cats have their own sense of "personal space". A safe interaction with cats means respecting boundaries and recognizing when to step away.

Top tips for safe interactions

- Never attempt to handle a fearful or aggressive cat.
- Allow a cat the choice to interact. Never force a cat to be touched.
- Pet gentle and slow. Observe body language for signs of discomfort.
- Do not disturb a cat while they are eating, sleeping or grooming.

Play it safe

- Use cat toys rather than your hands while playing.
- Structured play helps burn energy. Aim for 15-20 minute sessions. Provide a desirable treat afterwards to reward good behavior.
- Stop the play session if a cat becomes agitated or overstimulated.



Provide a variety of options for both interactive and solitary play.

Struggling with biting behavior?

Consider seeking help from a professional trained in cat behavior to address behavior concerns that are not medically-related.



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