

## COPING WITH DESTRUCTIVE SCRATCHING

I recently met with a client whose adopted kitty was wreaking havoc in her home by using couches and chairs as scratching posts. Together we devised a plan that has proved to be a great success.

Scratching is a natural behavior for cats. Providing appropriate places for cats to scratch is very important. Scratching pads and posts can be purchased for minimal expense. You will have to experiment to see if your cat prefers the flat boxes that are put on the floor (usually around \$10 or less) or the upright scratching posts. A little sprinkle of catnip will help attract your cat to the appropriate areas for scratching.

We also applied SOFT PAWS™ to the cat's front paws. SOFT PAWS™ is a great alternative to declawing a cat. The caps fit over the cat's (trimmed) nails and are kept in place with adhesive. They are designed to last about 30 days before new caps are required. Our client's cat has adjusted very well to the nail caps.

In addition to saving her furniture, our client tells us that capping her cat's nails has eliminated the occasional scratch she sometimes incurred while playing with her enthusiastic kitty. If you think SOFT PAWS™ might be appropriate for your feline, stop in to get more information. We will need to determine the size you need (kitten, small, medium, large) and your color preference (natural, purple, pink, blue, red). Each kit includes four applications. SOFT PAWS™ can be applied easily in a short office visit, or we can teach you how to put them on at home.



In case you are wondering, I assure you that I have no financial interest in the SOFT PAWS™ Company. I'm sharing the above success story at the urging of our client, who believes using SOFT PAWS™ is a practical alternative to declawing.