

ORCHARD HILLS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Feline Scratching

Scratching is a normal behaviour that conditions the claws, serves as a visual and scent mark, and is a means of stretching. However, when scratching is directed at furniture or members of the family, it is unacceptable. In most cases scratching can be prevented with environmental and behavioural management. Inappropriate scratching can be prevented by keeping the cat away from problem areas and trimming the nails regularly.

Acceptable scratching can be allowed and encouraged by providing a proper scratching post. Should the cat continue to scratch in an inappropriate area, the post could be moved to that area, and/or the scratched furniture can be covered with a less appealing material (plastic, a loosely draped piece of material).

Remote deterrents such as water spray and environmental deterrents like sticky tape, motion detectors, scat mats etc. can be used to deter further scratching of an area. Some owners may want to consider plastic nail coverings (Soft paws®) which can be glued over the claws monthly.

If you continue to have problems come in or call us on (02) 4736 2027