

get your cat to play



NATURAL CAT TOYS | ACTIVITY CENTERS | HOW TO PLAY

An important note from Jess

Hey friends! Thank you for taking the time upgrade your cat's enrichment and mental stimulation needs.

Please know that cats are reluctant to changes and prefer routine. You'll have to introduce new playtime routines gradually to help your cat adjust to the new routine.

This PDF contain affiliate links to the mentioned products. That means, if you click through and make a purchase, I earn a small commission on that sale.

Companies do not pay me to put their products on these PDFs. However, as an affiliate, I do get free products from time to time to test and review.

I've also included links to my website and YouTube guides for more details.

Red, underlined text are clickable links.



What are the best cat toys?



The best cat toys are made with natural materials and mimic prey textures. These natural materials like wool, hemp, fur, cotton, and feathers will attract your cat immediately. Additionally, they are much safer than plastic.

The indoor version of hunting is play! So buy toys that look and feel like prey. This will help your cat get interested in playing faster. Of course, cats will be cats and many of them do like to play with small plastic springs and other things they aren't supposed to play with.



Start with an interactive wand toy

Studies show that cats prefer human interaction to other stimuli including food and toys! The best way to get your cat to play is to start with a wand toy because you're required to play.

The most natural wand toys I've found are the [Kitty Whip wand toy](#) and [Wool Rat toy](#).

Kitty Whip wand toy is completely upcycled with reclaimed wood. The wand string is either cotton, leather, or sisal. I have the cotton wand toy. We play with it as is or I tie other toys to the end of it.

The wool rat toy is made out of wool. Jericho loves to bite and bunny kick it. As you can see above.



BALL TOYS

These ball toys are great for biting, bunny kicking, catching, and chasing. Sometimes Jericho gets lazy in his bed. So I toss these ball toys to him to catch, and then he bites them like crazy.

I got these toys from [Purrfect Play](#). They have small and jumbo ball toys. You can choose from cotton and wool. They also have hemp catnip toys and catnip-free toys.

Their cotton sleeping bag is amazing as well. Jericho loves to cuddle in it in my lap or lay on top of it next to me on the couch. The bed is pictured on the first page of this PDF.



Rabbit fur toys!

Rabbits are part of the cat's natural prey so these fur toys make playtime a lot of fun.

I slide these in and out of Jericho's sight on his [Cat Ladder](#), around the [Ripple Rug](#), and anywhere else we're playing. I also attach these to the Kitty Whip wand toy so he can chase and bite them.

I got these from [Whiskers n Paws](#). Some of their toys come with loops which are perfect for wand toys.





Silvervine attracts more cats than catnip

Have you heard of silvervine? It's a catnip alternative that more cats respond to!

You can play with the sticks or fruit galls. Or use silvervine powder to [DIY cat toys](#) or get your cat interested in new cat furniture.

I like [Meowy Janes](#) for silvervine toys.

Meowy Janes has the sticks, powder, and fruit galls. You can also get Valerian root and catnip powder.

I slide the sticks across the floor, move them around on his condos and [window perch](#), and also play under the door. Jericho goes crazy for these!

RIPPLE RUG

The Ripple Rug is a fantastic activity center for cats. Cats can scratch, play, rest, and hide which provides endless streams of enrichment. I hide toys and treats inside the ripples to simulate hunting.

You can buy the Ripple Rug on [Chewy](#) and [Amazon](#). Be aware that there are many fakes on Amazon.

[Their website](#) has a variety of different color options and international shipping.

Machine wash on cold, delicate cycle and hang dry. I also use the bottom only as a litter mat.





Cat Amazing food puzzle toy

We just tested the Cat Amazing classics and sliders puzzle toy. It truly is amazing! I like to use this when Jericho is finicky and stepping on my keyboard while I'm trying to work.

I toss some treats in, and he stays busy for quite a while! This is an excellent way to simulate hunting indoors.

Buy Cat Amazing on [Chewy](#) and [Amazon](#). Watch Jericho play with the sliders [here](#).

How to play with cats



1 Engaging toys

Engaging toys are a must. As I mentioned, mimic prey in appearance and texture. That's going to excite and attract your cat immediately. Remember, the indoor version of hunting is playing!

2 Make it a routine

Cats are creatures of habit and prefer predictability in their lives. Your cat "doesn't want to play" and prefers sleeping all day because that's the current routine. Batch routines like playing with your cat before mealtime or right when you get home from work. Make it a routine, and your cat will expect it.

3 Be patient and persistent

Have you heard that the indoor version of hunting is playing? Cats do not pounce the first second they see prey. They study prey and plan the best moment to attack. Keep this in mind when you play. Be patient and persistent.

4 Get creative and have fun

Think about different ways to use toys if your cat gets bored. Move toys under doors, the window perch, inside the ripples. Toss the toys in the air, slide them across the floor. And have fun! Playing with your cat is a wonderful bonding experience.

Shop from my Amazon cat toy lists:

[US](#), [CA](#), [UK](#).

VIDEOS

I break down the exact steps on how I get Jericho to play with me every day [here](#). I play with my mom's 3 cats [here](#). How to play without toys [here](#). And more in depth reviews of these toys [here](#).

MORE TIPS

It's also worth it to upgrade your cat's food. You don't want to run around and play after eating unhealthy food right? Check [my transition plans](#) to get started.