Innovative Cat Toys: A Selection Guide

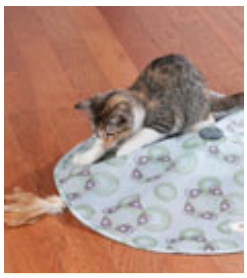
Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Most cats love to play, no matter what their age. Play stimulates their intellectual growth, and develops physical coordination and balance. It helps them socialize with other cats and humans. Play helps kittens learn basic survival skills, and also provides valuable exercise needed to keep fit. Play helps relieve boredom, obesity - the single largest problem for indoor cats - loneliness, and stress-related problems.

As cats mature, their personal drive for play may diminish, but not the actual need. Fortunately, even the most sedentary of cats enjoy play if properly challenged. But what is the right challenge for your cat? If your cat initiates play, *play-alone* toys can be effective. If, however, your cat needs a jumpstart, *play-together* toys are likely needed. In addition to satisfying your pet's need for mental and physical activity, you are sure to find them to be plenty of fun. Play-alone toys offer on-demand stimulation. If your cat won't play enough on her own, you need to personally challenge her, literally lending your hand to energize the play experience.

Based upon feedback from our customers, following are highlights of the top *play-alone and play-together* toys we offer:

Play-Alone Toys



Mystery Motion Cat Toy - This cat toy replicates the darting and dashing of real prey to get your cat up off the sofa and playing. The erratic movement of Mystery Motion's concealed feather toy keeps your cat guessing (like when you place your hand under a blanket and move it around to make your cat pounce).

Star Chaser Cat Toy - Illuminated cat toy thrills with lights, catnip, and the interactive play your cat craves. Your cat's pawing action sets the lighted ball in motion around the track. A corrugated center delivers long-lasting scratching fun, especially when sprinkled with included catnip.

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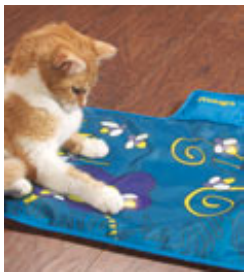
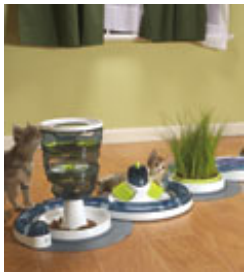


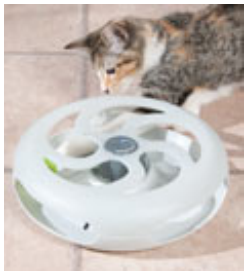
Flashing Firefly Mat - Curb kitty's nighttime attention-seeking behavior with engaging play. Flashing Firefly Mat offers silent nighttime activity for cats of all ages. Enjoy undisturbed sleep while kitty is occupied with exciting nighttime entertainment.



Catit Senses Activity Toys - Create a feline activity center that engages all kitty's prey-hunting senses. The Play Circuit track boasts a peek-a-boo enclosure that lets cats see, chase and swat a specially-designed ball. Re-shape or add more circuits as you like, to fit add-ons like the Massage Center, Grass Garden, or Scratch Pad.

FroliCat™ Bolt and Dart Laser Cat Toys - Battery-operated toys entice cats to bat, paw, pounce, and flip over the random laser dot movement. Set **Bolt** on the floor, table or other flat surface and play one of two ways. Use the automatic setting, in which the motor generates the laser's movement. Or, shine the laser manually (motor is off) to create your own laser patterns. **Dart** takes the fun a step further, generating 360° patterns. You can program the length of play for 5, 10, 15, or 20 minutes before auto shutoff, and you can also select from four different speeds.

Pick-a-Prize Toy Box - Toys peek out, but can your cat free the prize? Stimulating and challenging, this interactive puzzle box keeps your cat mentally active. Place toys or treats inside for your cat to reach, bat, and scoop, and ferret out. Sturdy all-wood construction lasts years. The box includes two assorted toys to get the fun started.



Stir Crazy™ Electronic Motion Toy - Stir Crazy features a rotating tail that pushes a catnip-filled ball around the circular, recycled-plastic track. Thanks to openings on the side and top of track, cats will bat and swat, but never completely capture the moving ball.

Play-Together Toys

Whack-a-Mouse™ - You and your cat can play together and enjoy hours of fun! Your cat will keep guessing and pouncing as you randomly poke the corduroy mouse wand through any of the Whack-a-Mouse toy's 14 holes. You'll surprise and captivate your cat over and over with every appearance of the mouse.

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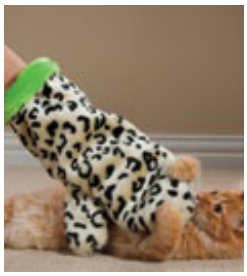
Da Bird - A single bob of Da Bird is completely irresistible to cats. Set on a swivel, its feathers look, sound, and feel like real bird wings. The most fun you'll have with your feline friend!

Remote Control Micro Mouse - Send kitty on a mouse hunt. This rolling, radio-control mouse easily rights itself after your cat bats it over, keeping the chase going on and on. You can steer the plush-covered plastic mouse forward, backward, left and right - using the included controller which doubles as a plug-in recharger.



Play Paw - Protective double-thick plush glove will keep you frolicking with your kitty until she's tired. Wrestle with her, play 'stalk me if you can', or pop it around corners to surprise her! Play Paw protects your hand and lower arm from sharp claws and teeth. Soft inside and out.

PURRfect Toy Wands - Give your cat the green light to leap, pounce, and chase her way to playtime bliss. Simply wave a Purrfect Cat Toy wand in front of her and be ready for the action. Each wand has an irresistible lure attached to the plastic wand by flex cable, which gives the lure added bounce.

You may need to try several types of toys in order to discover your cat's favorites. And even when you find one or two she absolutely loves, you'll need to rotate in others to keep play fresh and fun.

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