

# Cat Scratching Survey 2013

## 1. Introduction

Thank you for taking time out of your day to fill out this survey on cat scratching behavior. The results of this study will be published as part of requirements for board-certification by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists.

All responses are anonymous. You must be at least 18 years old to fill out this survey. Additionally, you must be the primary caregiver of at least one cat. This cat must spend at least some time inside of your house.

If you are the primary caregiver for multiple cats, fill out this survey for ONLY the cat whose name begins closest to the BEGINNING of the alphabet.

If you have questions, please contact us at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Clinical Animal Behavior Service, at [vetbehavior@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vetbehavior@ucdavis.edu).

## 2. Cat demographic information

**\*1. What is this cat's name? This is just to help identify duplicate entries.**

**\*2. Are you the primary caregiver of this cat?**

Yes

No

## 3. Cat demographic information

**\*1. What is the sex of this cat?**

**\*2. How old is this cat, in years? If you are unsure, please make your best guess.**

**\*3. How many years have you owned this cat?**

## 4. Cat demographic information

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## \*1. What breed is this cat?

- Domestic long hair (DLH) - non-purebred
- Domestic medium hair (DMH) - non-purebred
- Domestic short hair (DSH) - non-purebred
- Abyssinian
- American Shorthair
- Bengal
- British Shorthair
- Burmese
- Cornish Rex
- Devon Rex
- Himalayan
- Maine Coon
- Manx
- Norwegian Forest Cat
- Oriental
- Persian
- Ragdoll
- Russian Blue
- Savannah
- Scottish Fold
- Siamese
- Sphynx
- Tonkinese
- Other breed (please specify)

## 5. Cat demographic information

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## \*1. Where did you obtain this cat?

- Free / give away
- Found
- Purchased for a small fee from an individual
- Shelter / rescue organization
- Breeder
- Other (please specify)

## 6. Cat demographic information

### \*1. What percentage of time does this cat spend **INSIDE** of your house?

## 7. Cat demographic information

### \*1. On average, how many hours per day do you spend with this cat when you are able to observe his/her behavior?

## 8. Declawing

### \*1. Is this cat declawed?

- Yes, front only
- Yes, both front and back
- No

## 9. Types of cat scratching posts and objects

## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

**\*1. How many scratching post(s) or object(s) do you currently have inside of your house? These are ones that you have either purchased or made for your cat(s).**

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- > 10

### 10. Scratching post or object

**\*1. Has this cat ever urinated upon a scratching post or object?**

- Yes
- No

### 11. Substrates of cat scratching posts and objects

These are examples of common cat scratching object SUBSTRATES/COVERINGS, ranging from carpet to wood to cardboard. You will be answering a question on the following page regarding the type of SUBSTRATE/COVERING of the cat scratching object(s) in your house.

On a following page you will be given examples of common cat scratching object TYPES/STYLES.

## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

**This is an example of a wood scratching post.**



## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

**These are examples of carpet scratching posts.**



**These are examples of cardboard scratching posts/objects.**



## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

These are examples of rope scratching posts/objects.



### 12. Substrates of cat scratching posts and areas

# Cat Scratching Survey 2013

**\*1. Which types of SUBSTRATES are on the scratching posts or objects that you currently have in your house? Please select all that apply.**

**If the scratching post has multiple different substrates, please select all of the substrates that are on it.**

**If you are unsure of the different types of substrates on scratching posts or objects, please go back to the previous page for examples.**

- Wood
- Carpet
- Cardboard
- Rope
- Other (please specify)

**\*2. Which types of substrates on the scratching posts or objects does this cat use most often? If the favorite scratching post or object has multiple different substrates, i.e. rope and carpet, please select the area which is most used by this cat.**

- Wood
- Carpet
- Cardboard
- Rope
- Other (please specify)

## 13. TYPES OF POSTS

These are examples of common cat scratching object TYPES/STYLES, ranging from vertical to those on the ground. You will be answering a question on the following page regarding the TYPE/STYLE of the cat scratching objects in your house.



## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

These are examples of simple upright/vertical scratching posts.



## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

**These are examples of simple horizontal/floor scratching objects.**



**These are examples of angled floor scratching objects.**



## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

These are examples of hanging or mounted scratching objects.



These are examples of one-level scratching posts.





## Cat Scratching Survey 2013

These are examples of scratching posts with two or more levels.



14. Types of cat scratching posts and areas

# Cat Scratching Survey 2013

**\*1. Which TYPES/STYLES of scratching posts or objects do you currently have in your house? Please select all that apply. If you are unsure of the different types of scratching posts or objects, please go back to the previous page for examples.**

- Simple upright/vertical
- Simple horizontal/lies on the floor
- On the floor and at an angle
- Hanging or mounted on the wall
- Cat tree with one level
- Cat tree with two or more levels
- Other (please specify)

**\*2. Which types of scratching posts or objects does this cat use most often?**

- Simple upright/vertical
- Simple horizontal/lies on the floor
- On the floor and at an angle
- Hanging or mounted on the wall
- Cat tree with one level
- Cat tree with two or more levels
- Other (please specify)

## 15. Favorite scratching area

For the following questions, think about this cat's favorite scratching post or object.

**\*1. What is the height of this scratching post or object, at its tallest point?**

- < 1 foot (horizontal or angled on the floor)
- 1-3 feet
- 3-5 feet
- > 5 feet
- Other (please specify)

# Cat Scratching Survey 2013

## \*2. What is the width of this scratching post or object, at its widest point?

- < 1 foot
- 1-3 feet
- 3-5 feet
- > 5 feet
- Other (please specify)

## \*3. How frequently does this cat use this preferred scratching post or object?

- Multiple times per day
- Once per day
- Once per week
- Once per month
- Other (please specify)

16.

## \*1. How frequently do you do any of the following when you see this cat scratching on an appropriate scratching post or object?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always
Give a food treat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Give verbal praise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pet or stroke this cat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## \*2. Have you done anything to attract your cat to a scratching post or object? Check all that apply

- Placed a toy on the post or object
- Placed catnip on the post or object
- Rubbed this cat's paws on the post or object
- Fed this cat food or treat on the post or object
- Put a pheromone (i.e. Feliway (R)) on the post or object
- I didn't do anything, he/she just liked it from the start
- Other (please specify)

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## 17. Inappropriate scratching

**\*1. Does this cat scratch on objects or areas that you or other members of your household consider INAPPROPRIATE?**

- Yes
- No

## 18. Inappropriate scratching

**\*1. What inappropriate objects or areas does this cat scratch on? Select all that apply.**

- Furniture (couch, chair, table)
- Other household objects, not furniture (laundry basket, lamp)
- Walls
- Cabinets
- Carpeting
- Non-carpeted floors
- Windowsills
- Doorways
- Clothing
- People's bedding
- Pet bedding
- Other (please specify)

# Cat Scratching Survey 2013

## \*2. What inappropriate object or area does this cat MOST OFTEN scratch on?

- Furniture (couch, chair, table)
- Other household objects, not furniture (laundry basket, lamp)
- Walls
- Cabinets
- Carpeting
- Non-carpeted floors
- Windowsills
- Doorways
- Clothing
- People's bedding
- Pet bedding
- Other (please specify)

## 19. Inappropriate scratching

### \*1. How frequently does this cat scratch on an inappropriate object or area?

- Multiple times per day
- Once per day
- Once per week
- Once per month
- Other (please specify)

## 20. Inappropriate scratching

### \*1. How frequently do you do any of the following when you see this cat scratching on an inappropriate object or area?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always
Yell or scold	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physically remove	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Redirect away from object with toy or food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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**2. Is there a scratching post or object in the same room as the inappropriately scratched object or area?**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable...I do not have a scratching post or area

## 21. Inappropriate scratching

**\*1. How close is a scratching post or object to the inappropriately scratched object or area?**

- < 1 foot away
- 1-5 feet away
- 6-10 feet away
- > 10 feet away

Other (please specify)

## 22. Inappropriate scratching

**\*1. How problematic is this cat's inappropriate scratching for you? Please rate the severity**

	1: not severe at all	2:	3:	4:	5: very severe
Problem	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**\*2. Have you considered having this cat surgically declawed to stop the inappropriate scratching?**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable...in my area it is illegal to have cats surgically declawed

## 23. Declawing

The following questions are about your reasons for having your cat declawed.

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## \*1. Select the option that best fits your motivation and decision to have this cat declawed.

- This cat was already declawed when I obtained him or her
- All my cats have been declawed, seemed automatic choice
- A previous cat did a lot of damage
- This cat did a lot of damage
- To prevent damage to objects in the house
- To prevent injury to people
- To prevent injury to other pets

Other (please specify)

## 24. Other behaviors

### \*1. Has this cat ever scratched a person, causing injury, NOT in play?

- Yes
- No

### \*2. Has this cat ever bitten a person, causing injury, NOT in play?

- Yes
- No

### \*3. Has this cat ever scratched another cat, causing injury, NOT in play?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable...has never interacted with another cat

### \*4. Has this cat ever bitten another cat, causing injury, NOT in play?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable...has never interacted with another cat

## 25. Household pet information

### \*1. INCLUDING THIS CAT, TOTAL number of cats that currently live in your household:

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**\*2. TOTAL number of dogs that currently live in your household:**

## 26. Owner information

We appreciate it if you could answer just a few more questions.

**\*1. What is your gender?**

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to answer

**\*2. Which category below includes your age?**

- 18-20
- 21-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older
- Prefer not to answer but at least 18

**3. What is your current country of residence?**

- USA
- Canada
- UK
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Other (please specify)

## 27.

**1. Please type in any comments that you have about this survey. If none, just click "next".**

## 28. Thank you for your time

# Cat Scratching Survey 2013

We truly appreciate the time you have taken to help us!

If you have any questions about this survey, please e-mail us at [vetbehavior@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vetbehavior@ucdavis.edu)

Sincerely,

Drs. Colleen Wilson, Melissa Bain and Theresa DePorter