



CAT CORD CHEWING

This can be a difficult problem because these days our houses are full of cords and cats can be attracted to them. The only real option is prevention and making it unpleasant.

- Hide as many cords as you can and avoid allowing them to dangle which will naturally draw a cat's attention.
- Block their access to the cords by running them under carpet/rugs and furniture.
- Try to bundle cords and tie as many cords together as possible to form one big cord. This would be less desirable to chew on.
- Office Supply stores have cord protectors that can be used to run the cords through.
- If possible, try to secure the cords to the wall, floor, table legs, etc, with clips, duct tape or something similar.
- Spray/Coat the cords with a non-toxic, unpleasant tasting substance such as Bitter Apple spray. You may want to consider purchasing something called CritterCord (<http://www.crittercord.com/>). These are cord protectors that are already infused with an unpleasant tasting substance.
- Wrap the cords in tin-foil or tin-foil tape (available at the hardware store). Most cats don't like the taste or feel but periodically check the condition of the tin foil as a few cats actually like to chew on foil.
- Booby-trap the cords that they chew on the most - something like a scat mat or upside down contact paper to block their access.
- Make sure that they have plenty of ways to entertain themselves and work off any energy: give them frequent play sessions with toys on a string, provide opportunities for climbing such as a cat tree, hide little bits of their favorite treats around the house so that they have to go hunting for it, purchase a treat ball where you can place treats or even their dry cat food inside (as they bat the ball around, little pieces of food will fall out). If they are indoor cats set up a bird bath/house outside a window to attract birds that they cats can watch. Rotate their toys on a daily basis so that they don't get bored.

If you need additional advice, please contact the Kentucky Humane Society's free pet HELP line at **(502) 509-4PET (4738)** to discuss your cat's behavior issues with a trained volunteer.

