

# Why Does My Cat **Attack Me** When I

**OUCH!**

**While petting your cat, does she sometimes attack you for no apparent reason with claws and teeth?** It could be caused by static electricity (see below) or, if she is a kitten, just your cat being playful. But some cats just don't tolerate a lot of petting. Petting can overstimulate the receptors where fur meets cat and irritate the cat's skin.

In sensitive cats this can cause your lovable feline to look for a quick solution – either run away or attack the source of the discomfort – your hand!

Rest assured your cat isn't angry at you or trying to be mean if she tries to bite or claw you, she is

just expressing a natural response to too much touching. Keep in mind, however, if your cat shows a severe reaction to touch your cat could have a medical issue, so you should take your cat in for a veterinary checkup.

## Preferred Petting Places

You can increase your cat's petting pleasure by learning where cats like to be petted. Most cats prefer petting on the cheeks, the temples and between the ears and eyes.

The second favourite spots are other areas of the head – around the mouth and chin – and down the back and the chest.

The least favourite petting spots are near the tail, the tummy and the back legs. Many cats have a low tolerance for touching in these areas, and, if your cat associates discomfort with petting, she may avoid you altogether. **So don't annoy your cat!**

## Follow Your Feline's Lead

By carefully watching your cat's behaviour you can learn which parts she likes to be petted and for how long. Hold your hand out and see **how your cat approaches your hand**. If she **cheek rubs**, continue with that spot and see how long she goes before she changes her position – either runs away or moves a different body part under your hand. Watch for signs such as **flattening of the ears, twitching tail** or **low growl**. These are all signs of **agitation, not pleasure**. Stop petting. Your cat will start rubbing on your hand again when she is ready for more.

Ouch Meeko! Let go!



# Pet Her?



## Kitten Play!

To prevent your kitten learning to attack your hand always use a toy to play with her. If you pretend-play with your hand, every time you go to pet her she will think it is playtime and you will get scratched. Use a toy - a feather wand, ribbon toy, or other toy especially made for cats when in play mode!

## Shocking Cat Behaviour

Did you know that in a dry house, when you pet your cat, you could be building up static electricity and actually giving your cat mild shocks? If your cat suddenly runs away or attacks your hand it could be because she is sensitive to electricity.

**That's shocking news!**



Ribbon wands are great for getting your cat curious!



Lots of cats are attracted to catnip sprinkled on scratching posts or inside kitty toys

# Curious Cats & Play!

Cats love to play and are naturally attracted to movements and sounds that trigger their instinct to stalk prey. You can keep your cat healthy and active by stimulating her desire to seek out new things by playing chase games and providing toys that get a cat's curiosity heightened.

Cats love toys they can bat around — look for ones that make noise when they roll



You don't have to spend money on cat toys — cats love things like paper bags!