

CLICKER TRAIN HIM TO SIT ON A MAT

One effective way to divert your cat's predatory nature, especially if he's aggressive, is to clicker train him to sit on a mat on cue. The keys are to be clear, concise and consistent.

"Place a mat on the ground and call your cat to it," says Pam Perry, DVM, Ph.D. "When he steps on the mat, immediately say the command 'Sit' or 'Mat' and give him a treat when he complies. After repeating this several times, begin to reward him only when he is sitting on the mat."

If he does not comply when you ask him to sit, walk away for a few minutes with the treat in your hand and try again. He'll quickly learn the only way to reap the food reward is to comply by sitting.

"The use of a clicker may facilitate the training," Dr. Perry says. "Note that the clicker is not the command but rather a signal that indicates a reward is coming. Mat training has been helpful with aggressive cats, and owners are amazed that their cats can learn to do it. In severe cases, the cat should be taught to sit on a mat before receiving any interaction from his owner."

Dr. Perry suggests this link to a video demonstrating how to clicker train a cat to sit on a mat: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4W-1faJfONA.