

Boundary Training

This section concentrates on keeping your **RagaMuffin kittens** out of areas of your home that you don't want them. **RagaMuffin kittens** are naturally curious animals, but also very smart and can be trained that certain areas are not for them. It may be a shelf, a mantle, counters, tables, certain furniture, etc. There are different methods to achieve this goal. Some people like spray bottles, which the owner uses to spray their **RagaMuffin kittens** when they are in or on the inappropriate area. However, this method only works if you have the spray bottle in hand, or you are present when the **RagaMuffin kittens** are in the area where they should not be. In such cases, use a sound that lets your RagaMuffin know to get off the area where they are not permitted. It is not a good idea to use your **RagaMuffin kitten's** name or the word "no." You don't want your **RagaMuffin kittens** to associate the use of his or her name with unwanted behavior. Typically, when you use their name, you want them to come to you (well, they are cats, so that is, come to you if they feel like it). The word "no" is often used when disciplining children and could likely cause confusion to your **RagaMuffin kittens** if they hear the word "no" and they are not doing anything inappropriate. Snapping your fingers and or make a fssst noise can be effective. This is effective when you are further away but you need to correct your **RagaMuffin kitten's** behavior. Clapping can be a good noise to use or even a word like OFF! Keep in mind when training young **RagaMuffin kittens**, you will likely have to take the kitten down or away from the area where you do not want them, while at the same time, making a noise or saying no, so that they learn to associate the noise with the desired action. Many **RagaMuffin kittens** are very persistent and you must be just as persistent and consistent to achieve the results you want with your **RagaMuffin kittens**.

The methods described above can also be used when cats are scratching inappropriately. The sounds or squirts of water gets their attention and disrupts the behavior. The **RagaMuffin kitten** can then be immediately taken to the area that is appropriate for them to scratch.

There are also deterrents that you can place on areas where you would prefer your **RagaMuffin kittens** not hang out, for when you are not around to observe and correct their behavior. Taping aluminum foil on the spot or using two sided tape are effective deterrents. Also the use of Sofa Scram deterrent repellent mats will keep them out of inappropriate areas. They emit a loud noise that scares the **RagaMuffin kittens** away. Scat cans are also very useful devices. They can be placed on shelves to protect plants or other items. Scat cans are cans that have a motion detector on the top of the can and will beep and or spray air to scare the **RagaMuffin kittens** away.

Inappropriate Scratching

Scratching is a natural behavior for felines that can sometimes cause frustration towards our furry friends. With a few guidelines and tips you can create a happy coexistence. Scratching provides a means of communication for your **RagaMuffin kittens** as well as sheds outer layers of the nail. It does not shorten them and regular trimmings are needed and should be done. For **RagaMuffins kittens**, nails grow rapidly and need to be trimmed more often than a **RagaMuffin adult cat** would. Check your RagaMuffin's nails every two weeks on a kitten and monthly on adults. The back nails tend to grow

slower than the front nails. Once you get into a routine you will know your **RagaMuffin kitten's** specific time frame for nail trims. Some can go longer than others. Some cats will chew on their nails and this is a cue for you to trim them.

To meet your **RagaMuffin kitten's** needs and to prevent unwanted damage to your home, have several appropriate cat furniture items placed in areas of your home that your cat frequents. Some **RagaMuffin cats** prefer horizontal posts versus vertical. Also the material the scratching post is made out of can be a factor. It may take some juggling to figure out your **RagaMuffin kitten's** specific preferences. Most **RagaMuffin cats** love sisal and it makes sense to give them sisal as opposed to carpet as an acceptable scratching post.

It may take consistency and patience to ensure that your **RagaMuffin kittens** scratch only in the areas that are permitted. Most **RagaMuffins kittens** are very good about using the scratching medium you have provided to them, especially if they were given appropriate scratching areas from the time they were very little. If you see your **RagaMuffin kittens** or **RagaMuffin cats** clawing someplace they shouldn't, pick them up and carry them to the post and gently rub their paws on it mimicking their scratching behavior. There are scent glands located in their paws that they mark their area with. They continue to come back to the same areas they mark. Doing this every time and rewarding your **RagaMuffin kittens** with soothing compliments such as "good boy" will help them understand your message. Also entice them to use the posts you have provided by using catnip sprinkled or sprayed on the post or using toys to direct your **RagaMuffin kittens** to the post will help. Placing a favorite toy on top will encourage them to climb up and get it and get them comfortable with the post. Also for some **RagaMuffins kittens**, treats can be a positive reward.

Consistency is the key to modifying the unwanted behaviors in your kitten/cat and providing years of shared companionship with your furry **RagaMuffin kitten** family member.