

Feline Play Biting

Often times when a kitten arrives into a new home, the family may think it's "so cute" to see their new baby kitten bite and wrestle with their hands, fingers, and toes.

Unfortunately, the behavior, called "play biting," may continue into adulthood if it is not corrected when the kitten is still young.

This behavior can be resolved in the cat's new home with patience, a lot of toys and love.

Steps to follow:

- Do not allow the cat to bite your hands, fingers, or toes for any reason.
- Do not use your hands to encourage the cat to play. Instead, use toys such as **The Cat Dancer or feather toys**. These toys will create distance between your hands and the cat's teeth so he will be less likely to bite your hands in play.
- If he does try to play bite you, push your hand **towards** him. Pulling your hand away will simulate prey behavior and may encourage him to continue the unwanted behavior. Pushing your hand towards him will also confuse him long enough to allow you to get your hand out of the way before any damage is done.
- If he does bite you in play, simply ignore him. Lack of attention is the worst thing a sociable cat can imagine. He will start to learn that when he bites, playtime is over. After about fifteen minutes, resume play with a distance toy, like The Cat Dancer or a feather toy.
- Remember...when you have a young kitten on your hands you have to take the role of the kitten's littermates. The littermates will keep each other busy and tired after long play sessions. You will need to put aside a MINIMUM 1-2 hours a day to play with your new kitten. Since cats are nocturnal, evening or night time is the best. Get out the cat dancer, sit in the middle of the living room and run the toy along the floor so the kitten can chase it. You'll be amazed at how much fun you both will have!