



PAW

Goal - Your cat taps your hand with their front PAW when you ask. You ask for PAW when you want your cat to focus on you and not another house cat, person, or pet. By engaging with your cat in this way, you can shift their emotional state from fearful to positive.

STEPS FOR PAW

1. **Start your cat in the SIT position.**
2. **Pinch treat between thumb and forefinger, palm facing to the side.**
3. **Hold the pinched treat at your cat's shoulder level on the side of the paw you want them to lift.**
4. **CLICK the instant your cat picks their paw off the floor, then deliver reward.**
5. **Repeat steps 1 through 3.**
6. **Hold the pinched treat in place and wait for the cat to touch their paw to your hand.**
7. **CLICK the instant your cat's paw touches your hand, then deliver reward.**
8. **After your cat has consistently touched their paw to your hand, add the verbal cue "PAW" as you present your hand cue.**



Hand Cue - Pinch treat between thumb and forefinger, palm facing to the side, at your cat's shoulder level.

BEST PRACTICES

TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES

- 🐾 Click for small movements in the right direction toward what you are asking for. For example, if they move their head toward the treat, click and reward. If they are lifting their paw, click and reward. We want their job to be easy and for them to get rewarded.
- 🐾 Be sure to click the instant the cat does the behavior you are looking for. Think of it as taking a picture and capturing the moment.
- 🐾 Be patient as you wait for your cat to touch your hand with their paw.
- 🐾 Reset between asking for PAW by removing your hand and treat.
- 🐾 If your cat is becoming impatient and pawing at your hand before you have asked for PAW, wait for them to have all paws on the ground before you ask for PAW.

PREPARE FOR SUCCESS

- 🐾 Have the tools needed: high-value rewards (generally treats, but can be play or petting), and a clicker.
- 🐾 If using treats, break into pea-sized pieces. Keep treats safe and out of sight during training; use a container, pocket, or pouch that enables you to grab the treats quickly.
- 🐾 Be sure your cat is hungry and has not eaten for 2 to 3 hours before your session.
- 🐾 Prepare a quiet place with no distractions or other cats around.
- 🐾 Practice holding the items all at once in your hands. How do you plan to present the target, click, and then give the treat in a fluid motion for the cat to understand? Practice by yourself until you feel comfortable.

How to End the Session:

- Sessions should last only 2 to 3 minutes at a time.
- End on a positive note.
- Be sure to go at your cat's speed—after all, they are a cat. By following their lead both of you will be relaxed, enjoying each other's company, and having fun! Be prepared to be impressed.

