

Aggressive Play

If you have a kitten that likes to attack you, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- Play behavior is an important part of every maturing kitten. They naturally want to stalk and pounce on things like they would in the wild. We want to direct this energy on appropriate things.
- Don't encourage teasing with your fingers or toes. Only use dangling toys or tossing toys that are designed for the pet to play with. Ping pong balls make great toys to swap and chase. Small fishing rods with stuffed toys on a line can be used to toss away from you. Using toys stuffed with catnip or treats can make them more appealing to the kitten.
- Overzealous kittens may need a "time out" if the play is getting out of hand. Confine the kitten in a room for several minutes. The lack of attention is their only punishment. Physical punishment is not encouraged because it can escalate the behavior or create a fear of the owner.
- Naturally, another cat or kitten, as a playmate is a good option for expressing play behavior. If you have an older cat or fearful one, you may find the other cat not tolerating the younger one. Providing separate spaces for each cat may be necessary to maintain a healthy happy environment for both.
- If your kitten is attacking you when you sleep, then you need to keep the pet outside of your bedroom. This behavior often disappears as the kitten matures.