

TEACH YOUR CAT TO HIGH FIVE

If you want to teach your cat to give you a “high five,” just follow these easy steps. Don’t worry if your cat is standing or sitting. Pets can give a “high five” whether they stand or sit. It looks really cool either way.

1. Put a tasty, strong-smelling treat in your fist, and hold it by one of your cat’s front “knees.”
2. Wait.
3. Wait some more.
4. If your cat sniffs your hand to get the treat, that’s good. Just wait.
5. Watch your cat’s front paw. Either one will do.
6. If your cat lifts his front paw up to try to get the treat from your fist, tell him, “Goodboy (or girl),” and give him (or her) the treat.
7. Be patient (this is where kids really shine!). Some pets take a long time to use their paw to touch your fist. If your cat seems to be having a hard time, lower your fist a bit closer to the ground. Make it easy for him to lift his paw, even if it’s just a little bit.
8. Keep practicing say, “Good boy,” and give your cat the treat every time his paw touches your fist.
9. After he touches your fist 10 times and gets 10 treats, raise your hand about an inch higher.
10. Have him touch your hand, say, “Good boy” and give him the treat.
11. Do that 20 times.
12. Raise your hand about an inch higher again. Have him touch your hand, say, “Good boy,” and give him the treat. Do that 10 times.
13. Now you’re ready to give your cat what pet trainers call a “command,” a special word (or two) that your pet learns to associate with what you want him to do when you say it in order to get the reward (like a yummy treat!). Say “High five” or “Go Tigers” or whatever you want your command to be. Then, show your pet your fist with the treat in it. When he touches your fist, say, “Good boy,” and give him the treat.



14. Every time you want him to give you a high five, give your command, and show him your fist. You should be able to raise your fist pretty high now. (Some dogs and cats can even do a high five over their heads!) Just be careful not to ask your pet to do something he can't do or that might hurt him. Now you and your pet have a cool trick to show your friends when they visit.

Don't forget to have fun!