

TIPS FOR INITIATING YOUR CATS TO THEIR NEW FERRISCATWHEEL FROM ZIGGYDOO

The MOST IMPORTANT goal is to ensure your cat(s) first experience on the wheel is positive and non-fearful. Be sure to follow the do's and don'ts for getting your cats started with the wheel.



Be patient – be calm – be happy ! Sometimes cats will jump on immediately – sometimes they need a bit of play motivation. BUT sometimes things don't just happen immediately. And that's perfectly OK! Cats rule on their own timeframes as you know! And they sense our emotions relative to the wheel.



Ferris Cat Wheel

Do's and Don'ts getting your cat started with the Wheel

DO give your cat lots of loving praise while they figure out how the wheel moves beneath them.

DO let your cat show you what they are comfortable doing.

DON'T quickly encourage fast chasing that results in too much wheel movement - it WILL scare your cat. Small steps to build confidence is all its takes. Don't try to make them be wheel ninja's on Day 1

DON'T move the wheel with your hands while cat is on - every movement must come from your cat otherwise they will fear the wheel

DO use the STRADDLING TECHNIQUE for very nervous and shy cats - they respond so nicely to feeling more secure being so close with you while on the wheel!

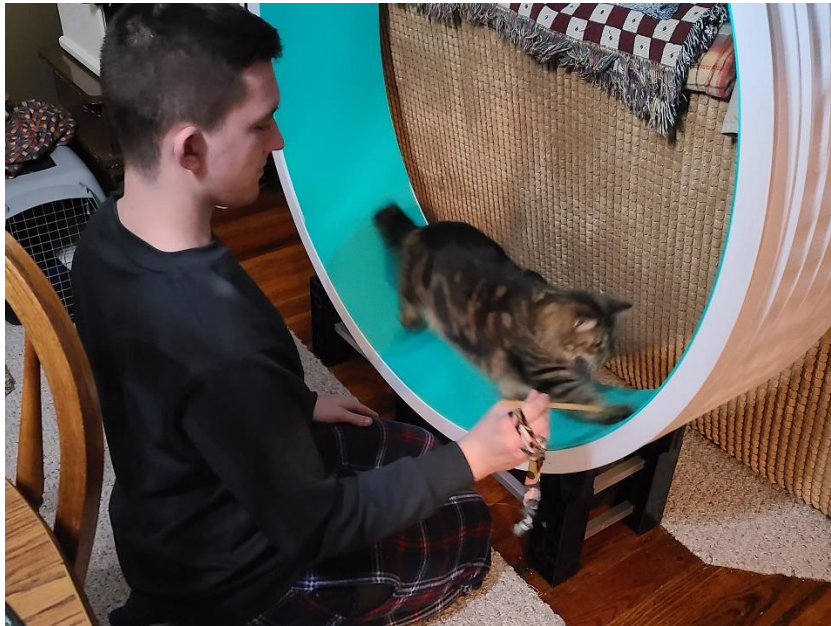
DO take lots of pics and videos to share with Elizabeth [Gujdan](#) and Nikita at [ZiggyDoo](#) - and please drop by the [ZiggyDoo](#) facebook page to leave your review !

If you need any help or advice getting your cats to use the wheel - please DO reach out - Nikita and I are always happy to help with loads more tips and suggestions!

PHASE 1: ACCEPTANCE AND POSITIVE FIRST EXPERIENCE THROUGH LOTS OF VERBAL PRAISE

First off – they suddenly have this foreign “thing” in their world – they need to see that you accept this new thing.

So pull up a pillow and sit yourself near the wheelbase – and now you’re ready to begin initiation.



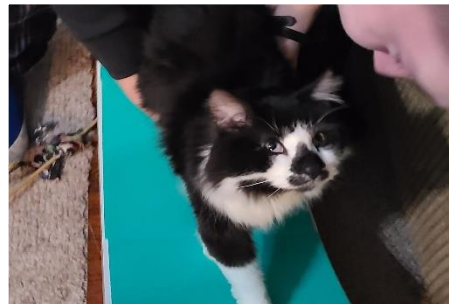
The cats will come to check out what’s going on – and that gives you the opportunity to tell them all about the wheel - and if you have a laptop etc, you can even show them other cats walking on the wheel (they really DO learn by watching)

Be sure to give them lots of verbal praise for even touching the wheel.

And if they step onto the wheel – the goal is to let them take baby steps so that they can experience the feel of the wheel shifting beneath their weight. (think of it like a person standing on a skateboard for the very first time)

REMEMBER: it isn't about speed – you want your cat to have a chance to become adept at moving on the wheel BEFORE you encourage running! (and never move the wheel with your hands – all movement MUST come from the cat!)

IF YOUR CAT HAS A FEARFUL NERVOUS PERSONALITY? TRY STRADDLE APPROACH (your back might be sore from bending over – but the cats will really appreciate it!)



Straddle Technique

If you sense that your cat is fearful of the wheel – you can position yourself at the wheel in the way I show you to install the EVA running track pads.

Then get the cat between your legs on the wheel - nervous cats will like this because you are giving them the security they need – give them praise for the tiniest of baby steps with a calm and loving voice – pet them – and show them your happiness – even your giggles give them positive reinforcement.

Do this a few times each day until you see they are getting onto the wheel on their own. And keep the verbal praise flowing – it really makes a difference!

PHASE 2: PLAY AND BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SKILL.....

Hope that helps! Happy wheeling!



Elizabeth & Nikita