

design



Pampering your pet

Avoid a cat-astrophe with some of the funkiest feline furniture around

Words **Karen Woods** Photography **Chris Groenhout**

My cat gets scolded, on average once a week, for clawing at the furniture in our family room. When she was a kitten this was probably more like once a day.

Not that my husband and I are mean and unloving pet owners. It's just that, like most cats, she has absolutely no regard for the damaging impact of her claws on the couch.

If you have found yourself faced with the same dilemma but don't want to add a boring old scratching post to your home decor, take a look at the latest cat furniture from Funky Cat.

Working from home, Jenny and Maurie Spanos have developed a range of furniture for felines known collectively as the "funky forest".

"I'd worked in the pet industry for some time and felt that the range available hadn't changed in many years," Jenny says.

"I'd seen some really interesting items overseas and believed the Australian market was ready for something new."

Their range consists of three core products known as hollows, trees and springies.

Each hollow has a thick trunk with padded leaves attached. Cats can climb or rest, according to their mood, as well lying on a flat rest area on top.

There are several openings into the centre of the tree, so your cat can crawl up and down inside the trunk.

All hollows are covered with carpet, inside and out. The carpet has been laid on each piece of furniture to

mimic the texture of bark on a tree. "They're produced by hand, so each item is unique," Maurie says.

"The carpet sometimes seems to have a mind of its own, so it can be pretty physical work getting them to look the way we want."

There are four different-sized hollows. The largest is more than three metres tall and nine metres of carpet is used in its construction.

Items can be custom-made with bigger leaves or holes to suit different-sized cats. The trees are similar to the hollows, but with a solid trunk.

Each item is fitted with one or more springies. These look like a little tree on a spring and have a bell inside to provide hours of entertainment.

Because many houses today have polished floors, all items in the range are lined on the bottom so they won't scratch floors when moved around.

Jenny and Maurie offer a range of carpet colours to choose from to make up a combination that suits you. Or you can supply carpet of your own.

Freestanding springies are \$25 and hollows range from \$150 to \$750.

The range will be on display at the Top Cats Show at Carwatha College, Noble Park North, on Sunday, October 26, or visit www.funkycat.com.au

Or, make an appointment to view by calling 5996 7913. Cat models pictured are from Bytheway Ragdolls, phone 0415 298 257.



For cool kittens

Pampered puss-cats now have the option of multi-storey living (left)

Forest favourite

The Funky Cats range comes in many colours and sizes (right)