

# Why Cats "Knead"

By Comfort for Critters

Many of our volunteers picture cats and kittens kneading their creations, as they make each blanket. I've often seen my own kitties kneading away at their blankies, until they snuggle down. So why do they knead the blankets anyway? It's been a long-held misconception that a cat's kneading is the result of being weaned too early, or too late. This thankfully, is not true.

The motion the cat is creating when kneading, is exactly what they did as a nursing kitten, massaging their mother's belly to keep the milk flowing. A happy kitty is one that continues to knead soft surfaces as a comforting behavior they learned early on.

A mother cat is also known to knead the sleeping area for her kittens to make it more comfortable. So the kittens learn that kneading the bedding is a great way to make a bed more comfortable. So all in all, kneading is associated with happy memories for a kitty.

So if you are being "kneaded" by a cat, consider yourself lucky. If you find your cat kneading their blanket, you'll know they are happy and comfortable indeed!

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