

GreaterGood.org's The Jackson Galaxy Project and the Petco Foundation present the second annual:



Learn more at [www.felinehighfive.com](http://www.felinehighfive.com)

Did you know that "National High-Five Day" is Thursday, April 18, 2019? Do you want to see a bunch of humans slapping palms or would you rather see some cuddly cats get in on the action?

*That's what we thought.*

At The Jackson Galaxy Project, a Signature Program of GreaterGood.org, we know cats love to be able to join in on high-fiving fun!

Teaching shelter and rescue cats to high-five is just one of the many things our *Cat Pawsitive* program does to provide mental and physical enrichment, improve quality of life, and help get cats adopted. To spread the word, we are giving YOU the chance to win cash and food grants for your shelter!



**HOW TO WIN a \$5,000 Grant for Your Favorite Animal Shelter or Rescue Organization and a Trip to Meet Lil BUB and Jackson Galaxy:**

You can help us spread a "pawsitive" message about cat adoption and win big! **It's easy, just follow these steps:**

1. Teach one (or more!) cats to high-five using the instructions provided here.
2. Visit [www.felinehighfive.com](http://www.felinehighfive.com) to enter your photos or videos. Deadline to enter is Sunday, May 16th, 11:59pm (PST).
3. Finalists will be announced on May 20th. You can vote daily for your favorite entry until June 2nd at 11:50pm (PST)! Encourage your friends to vote by sharing your favorite entries on social media.

**The top three winners will be announced June 3rd, 2019.**

**1st Place:** \$5,000 cash grant for your favorite shelter or rescue AND a trip to meet Lil BUB and Jackson Galaxy at BUB's birthday bash on June 22nd.

**2nd Place:** \$3,000 cash grant for your favorite shelter or rescue.

**3rd Place:** \$2,000 cash grant for your favorite shelter or rescue.

# Sounds Fun! (It is) So How Do I Train My Cat to High-Five? (It's Easier Than You Think)

## JUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW:

Training should always be a fun and exciting interaction between your cat and you. Before you even start training, part of the fun for *you* that creates excitement for your *cat* will be finding a “special something” that your cat really loves.

In the training world, that special something is called a “reinforcer.” It’s similar to a reward in that it is something your cat really likes and will work for. Reinforcers fall into three categories:

- Food, such as treats, canned cat food, deli meats
- Toys, such as fuzzy mice, balls, wand toys, etc.
- Interactions, such as petting, brushing, or talking

Pick the one that your cat likes best! This will be the “reward” for learning and performing a behavior, in this case a high-five.

## Choose a Training Marker

A “training marker” is a sound the cat hears immediately after successfully completing a desired behavior. In The Jackson Galaxy Project’s *Cat Pawsitive* program, we use special devices called “quiet clickers” to make the sound. The clicker’s sound, when immediately followed by a reinforcer, means they got it right!

If you don’t have a quiet clicker, you can replace the “click” with a clicking sound you make with your tongue, or you can use the quiet clicking sound of a click-top pen. You can also use your voice by saying “Yes!” in an excited, encouraging tone.

### Quick Click Tip:

*Hold the clicker in your pocket or behind your back, because the sound (if too close to the cat’s face) can startle a cat if they are not used to it.*

## Training Your Cat to “High-Five”

Cats often use their paws to touch items in front of them. This is what makes high-five so easy to teach for most cats. It’s best to do training at a time of day when your cat is likely to be active and expecting to spend time with you. Meal time or play time is the perfect training time! When you are ready to start training, have your cat’s favorite reinforcer nearby.



### Step One

With a flat hand, show your cat your palm (your side of the high five) by placing your palm in front of and just above your cat’s head. This will encourage your cat to reach toward you. Make sure it isn’t too far away that they can’t touch your hand.

### Step Two

Wait for your cat to touch your palm with their paw. This may require some patience!

### Step Three

As soon as you feel your cat touch your palm with their paw, *immediately* click your clicker. Then immediately give your cat the chosen reinforcer (a small piece of food, a few seconds of play with a toy, or a few gentle pets).

### Step Four

Remove your hand. After waiting a few seconds, repeat steps 1-3 about 10 times.



## Step Five

When you are confident that your cat will place their paw on your palm, you can say, “High-Five” when you are showing your cat your palm. Remember to click or say “Yes!” and provide the reinforcer as soon as they successfully complete the high five!

## Step Six

Get your camera out, or even better, have a friend snap a creative picture or video of you and the cat high-fiving away. Enter your video or photos at [www.felinehighfive.com](http://www.felinehighfive.com) between April 18th, 2019 and May 16th, 2019. Finalists will be chosen and voting will begin on May 20th!

Here’s a great example of Cat Pawsitive in action from an employee at KC Pet Project in Missouri:



*If your shelter or rescue organization is interested in learning more or applying for the Cat Pawsitive program, contact The Jackson Galaxy Project at [catpawsitive@greatergood.org](mailto:catpawsitive@greatergood.org).*



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