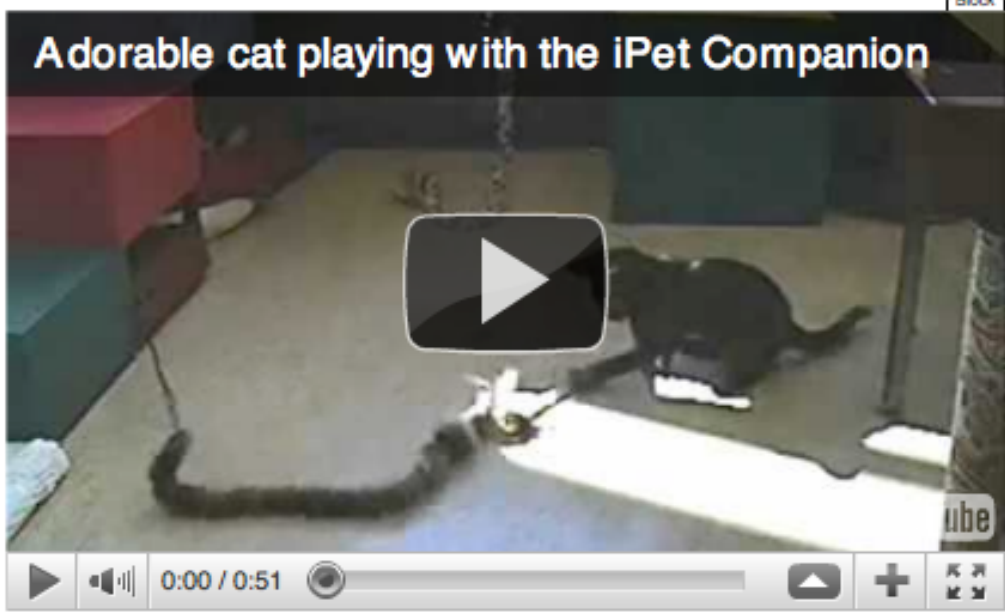


TECHNOLOGY

iPet Companion lets you play with kittens over the web

By Olivia Solon | 05 April 11



Topic Hub

Cats

A small furry domesticated mammal valued by humans for its companionship, frequently idolised on the internet

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Have you always wanted a cat but your partner has allergies? **iPet Companion** allows you to use robotic toys to play with live animals over the internet.

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The service -- created by **AprioriControl** -- is designed to let people interact with live shelter cats in a bid to boost adoptions, donations and sponsorships.

Currently being trialled in the **Oregon Humane Society** and the **Idaho Humane Society** in the US, iPet Companion incorporates specially-designed robotic toys that can be controlled remotely using a website.

There are a number of different toys that you can control while watching a live video feed -- some with feathers and some with balls. If the site is busy you enter a queue for a free two-minute session in charge of the toys.

You need to have Silverlight installed in order to be able to use the technology and you can only play with the kitties between 10:00 and 19:00 Pacific Time, or 18:00 to 03:00 UK time (BST). You can also chat with other people watching the feed and click to donate money to the shelter.

According to the Oregon Humane Society, the technology has increased kitten adoptions by 16%, web traffic by 53% and sponsorship and donations have shot up by 295%.

Check out the video of the remotely controlled cat toys in action above. Or wait until 18:00 BST to play for yourself.

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