

## NY offers remote play dates with kittens

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Animal enthusiasts using a computer can now play with cats and kittens in a far-away shelter in New York.

Innovative software allows users to operate remote-controlled robotic toys to entertain cats that are up for adoption.

Cat lovers can log onto Bideawee, the New York animal welfare organisation's website ([bideawee.org](http://bideawee.org)), and choose the 'Kitty Play Date' option. They are then launched into real-time interaction with cats that are housed in one of Bideawee's rooms.

Users can watch cats jump, pounce and grab at the toys that are wired to respond instantaneously to remote commands.

Leslie Granger, the Vice President for Development at Bideawee says, 'the difference between playing with a cat in the same room and playing remotely is number one: it's a unique experience. Not everybody has ever played with a cat remotely and moved toys around. But also it's something that I can do from anywhere and people can do from anywhere. They can do it from all over the world; they can play with the cats at Bideawee in New York. So it's a great experience.'

Each user is allowed two minutes of play but there is no limit to how many times you can log in for a play date.

Bideawee claims that more than 2,000 users from as far away as Asia have logged in to play with the cats since it was launched just over a week ago.

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