

Kitty Cataclysm

A quick, chaotic game for 2-5 catty players

Overview

You are squabbling with the other cats, trying to have the most **meowney**. **Steal**, **donate** and **pass** around your cards. Give away whichever you think are the worst, and try to have the most valuable ones at the end of the game.

Setup:

The most recent winner is the dealer. Shuffle. Deal 5 cards to each player.

These 5 cards — and any others you steal, draw or are given during the game — are in your 'paws'. The remaining cards form 'Schrödinger's deck', which should be placed in the centre of the table. Leave space for a 'litter tray', where cards are discarded into.

Someone else starts (whoever is first to play a card).

Each turn:

Play a card on top of your '**purrsonal kitty**', then do whatever it says. Your *purrsonal kitty* is one face-up pile of all the cards you have played over the course of the game. If you can't do everything a card says (e.g. you don't have enough cards to donate), just do as much as you can. Follow instructions in the order written.

After you have done what the card says, the player to your left takes a turn.

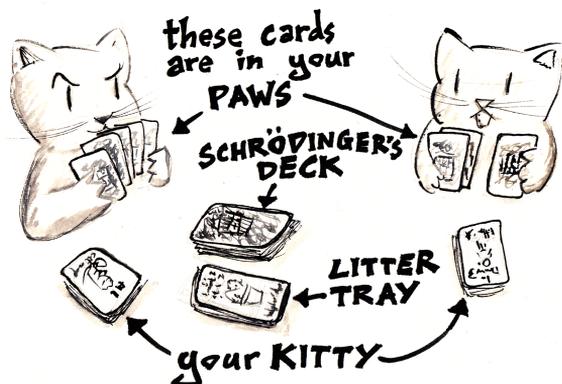
Unless, of course, the card told you to 'play again'.

Ending the game:

If anyone has no cards in their **paws** at the start of their turn and so cannot play a card, the game ends. The game also ends if **Schrödinger's deck** is empty when anyone should draw a card.

Add up the **meowney** on all the cards in your **paws**, as well as all the cards you have in your **purrsonal kitty**.

Whoever has the most **meowney** wins!



Card overview:

Meowney: The meownetary value of the card. It ranges from -1 to 3.

Effect: When the card is played, you follow these instructions.

Superfluous Picture Pun-tastic Name



Details for setup:

Whoever most recently won a game is the dealer. Anyone else (not the dealer) can start the game by being first to play a card face up in front of themselves. When playing multiple games, the previous winner deals, and so has a slight disadvantage as they cannot start.

When dealing, cards should be dealt one by one, so the person to the dealer's left gets their last card before the person to the dealer's right. If you're not dealing, it is an advantage to grab your 5 cards as soon as they have been dealt and choose as quickly as you can!

Details for a turn:

As long as you have a card, you must play it.

Details for the end of game:

If at the start of your turn you don't have a card to play, the game ends. The game also ends if there aren't enough cards to draw when cards are drawn. If multiple people were meant to draw a card, and there are not enough left, do it in clockwise order — starting with whoever played the card.

Count all the **meowney** on all the cards in your **kitty** and all the cards in your **paws**. Whoever has the most **meowney** is the winner!

If there is a tie for most, the tied player who most recently took a turn is the winner. If there is still a tie, you have misunderstood the rules.

Where a card may be:

Your paws/someone else's paws:

Every card you have been dealt, or have drawn, is considered to be 'in your **paws**'. *Whether you're actually holding them, or have momentarily put them on a table to snack on a piece of sashimi, makes no difference.*

Your kitty/someone else's kitty:

The face-up pile you play cards onto is called your **kitty**. You may hide your older cards, but your latest card must be visible. You are allowed to gaze inside your own **kitty** but should never touch someone else's **kitty**.

Schrödinger's deck:

This is the face-down deck in the middle of the table, from which you draw cards. *If you know the deck distribution, you may be able to say that the next card has a 5% chance of being a cat-aclysm. For the purposes of this game, each card exists in every possible state, until it is examined. When multiple people draw cards, do not worry if someone else drew cards before or after you. It does not matter. All hail the mysteries of Schrödinger's deck.*

The litter tray:

When a card tells you to 'lose' cards, all the lost cards go into a face-up central pile, called the **litter tray**. You are allowed to go rooting in the **litter tray**, to see what other folk chose to lose, if you really want. *But that's just icky.*

Clarifications for card text:

Donate x:

Take x cards from your **paws**, and add them to other players' paws. You can **donate** everything to one player, or split it up as you wish.

Steal x:

Take x cards from other players' **paws**, and place them into your own **paws**. *You can steal from multiple players with 1 card if you wish. Other players can always shuffle their cards first.*

Draw x:

Take x cards from the top of **Schrödinger's deck**. Add them to your **paws**.

Lose x cards:

These cards are lost from your **paws**. They go into the **litter tray**. *(Or start a litter tray, if none exists.)*

Pass x cards left:

This is done simultaneously. If one player has no cards in their **paws**, they will pass nothing left and will just receive x cards.

Everyone holding 7 or more cards loses all those cards:

This card affects everyone — including whoever played the card — when played. All the lost cards go into the **litter tray**.

Everyone holding 6 or more cards loses their entire kitty:

Everyone holding 6 or more cards — including whoever played this card — takes their entire **kitty** and puts it into the **litter tray**. *This is the only way to lose cards from your kitty.*

CREDITS/THANKS/HISTORY

My notes and memories are both spotty, and space is limited. I sincerely apologise to everyone whose name I have omitted.

The story begins in 2013 with a prototype by 'Danish Frank'. It was called 'Unfair' — a chaotic game of cardplay. You played cards into personal discard piles, and the person with the most points in their discard pile would win. Cards let you swap cards, steal cards or steal other discard piles. One super-powerful card was marked on the back and it could be targeted.

I wanted to make my own version of this when Frank left London and — encouraged by Ben Neumann — I branched off and made it very physical. Thanks to Gokce Balkan, Dave Cousins and many others, I published 'In A Bind', which is now Yogi — the best partygame of silly physical constraints.

In 2016, I wanted to go back to the earlier game and keep it about the cardplay and not having any physicality involved.

I immediately simplified it and streamlined it massively. Chaos was reined in slightly so that cardplay mattered. I added the concepts of donations as a standard action, and removed drawing as an automatic action. I was playtesting it tens of times each week and feeling fairly happy with the mechanics but it still felt... like it was missing something.

In early 2017, Lynn Parker suggested a theme of cats! I figuratively 'ran with this' and added many cat puns. Yay!

At UKGE 2017, it was suggested that I remove the varied card backs. I was horrified by the suggestion, but tried it out and... the game was then almost done.

Just a few hundred more playtests and the game was ready to go on Kickstarter. At the time of writing, I am now working on the art. I am excited to release my third boardgame thing! It's a bit different from Yogi/Wibbell++ but I hope that all of them are loved, even if by different people.

There were many other playtesters, but super-special thanks need to be made to David Brain, Paul Mansfield, Kieran Symington and Leo Marshall (*regulars at Waterloo and the biggest contributors to the balancing*); Andy Yiangou (hosting Enfield playtests); and the two players at UKGE 2017 who helped persuade me to try removing the different card backs.

Artwork, graphic design & writing by me (Bez). Proofreading by Ayden Lowther, John Brieger, Chris Zinsli and Rachael Mortimer. I hired Denholm Spurr to help me finish it all.

I hope you have fun with Kitty Cataclysm!