A catnip-filled toy (10) for cats which may be caused to roll, spin around, wobble, and slide when manipulated by the paw of a cat. The device (10) has a central hub (12) which is convex in shape. Extending horizontally from the central hub (12) are two hollow reservoirs (14) which may be filled with catnip (24). The central hub (12) and catnip reservoirs (14) are circular in shape when seen in side elevation from an end view, so as to allow the device to roll freely upon any smooth surface. The catnip reservoirs (14) have openings (20) through which the catnip (24) may be filled, emptied, and refilled and have a plurality of small holes (22) through which the scent of the catnip (24) inside may emanate outside. The catnip reservoirs (14) are attached by screwing together and may be detached by unscrewing. An alternative embodiment may include yarn (232), feathers, or other soft material extending from and attached to the outer ends of the catnip reservoirs (14).
REFILLABLE CATNIP TOY

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The disclosed invention is a novel catnip-filled toy for cats.

DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

[0002] The scent of catnip has been shown to arouse and excite cats and increase their playfulness. Numerous toys exist that are filled with catnip; most of those catnip-filled toys being made of cloth which is stitched together and stuffed with catnip, in much the same manner as a pillow or a cushion is filled with soft material. While such catnip-filled toys may be clawed, bitten, batted, and carried around by cats, they do not allow the cat to effectively spin, rock, and roll the toy on the floor, and so their play value is thereby limited.

[0003] The present invention is a catnip-filled toy which is easily spun, rocked, and rolled on a surface such as a smooth floor, and can be bitten and picked up by the cats, as well. In addition, the device may be easily refilled with fresh catnip by the owner.

[0004] Catnip losses much of its scent over time and, as the scent fades, a catnip-filled toy will tend to become less attractive to a cat. Therefore it is of value to replace the old catnip with fresh catnip. Catnip toys that are stitched together such as U.S. Pat. No. Des. 306,557 to Reese do not allow the owners to easily replace the old catnip with fresh catnip, as doing so would require cutting open the toys to remove the old catnip and then stitching them back together after filling them with fresh catnip.

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. 5,682,838 to Reich shows a cat toy which may be refilled more easily than other sewn catnip-filled toys due to the fact that it can be opened and closed using hook and loop fastening, however being made of soft fabric, it lacks a regular, hard molded outer surface that would allow the device to spin and roll easily and freely on a smooth surface when batted by the paw of a cat.

[0006] U.S. Pat. No. 4,928,632 to Gordon teaches a catnip-filled toy for cats which lacks the central hub of the present invention and therefore is not well suited for spinning and cannot be moved in a rocking motion. In addition, Gordon’s device does not allow easy refilling by the user with fresh catnip.

[0007] U.S. Pat. No. Des. 380,879 to Hernandez shows a weighted catnip-filled toy which may be moved in a rocking motion, but cannot be rolled across the floor.

[0008] U.S. Pat. No. 5,275,127 to Leopold shows a device which is mainly for scratching and clawing and cannot be moved about on the floor or picked up by the cat because it is mounted in place.

[0009] U.S. Pat. No. 5,269,256 to Viola teaches a cat toy which can be effectively moved about on the floor by cats in a wide variety of play patterns, but is not filled with catnip.

OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES

[0010] The present invention represents a novel form of cat toy in that it comprises a catnip-filled amusement device which may be quickly and easily refilled with fresh catnip by the owner and may be caused to spin, rock, roll, and slide about on a smooth surface such as a floor when manipulated by the paw of the cat and may also be bitten and picked up by the cat.

[0011] A touch of the cat’s paw causes the device to spin in a lively manner which cats seem to find interesting. The unique shape of the toy allows it to slide, rock, and roll easily on a smooth surface such as a floor, providing amusement and exercise for the cat. In the preferred embodiment, the shape of the device allows the cat to easily bite it, pick it up or drag it around, providing further play possibilities for the cat. Additionally, as the toy spins, slides, wobbles, rocks, or rolls upon a surface, it may produce a faint scratching or pitter-patter sound, which seems to increase the interest of the cat. The scent of the catnip emanating from the holes in the device provides a strong attraction for the cat and induces the cat to play with the device.

DRAWINGS

[0013] FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of catnip-filled toy for pets;

[0014] FIG. 2 shows an exploded perspective view thereof;

[0015] FIG. 3 shows a top plan view thereof;

[0016] FIG. 4 shows a side elevational view thereof;

[0017] FIG. 5 shows an end view thereof;

[0018] FIG. 6 shows a side elevational view thereof in cross-section;

[0019] FIG. 7 shows the invention being filled with catnip;

[0020] FIG. 8 shows a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the invention;

[0021] FIG. 9 shows a perspective view of a second alternative embodiment;

[0022] FIG. 10 shows a side elevational view thereof in cross-section
DESCRIPTION

The device 10 comprises a central hub 12 from which two reservoirs 14, each of which may radiate horizontally two reservoirs 14, each of which may be assembled by screwing the male 20 and female 28 portions together until the two parts of the device 10 are firmly connected. The reservoirs 14 may be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced. The central hub 12 is a cover in shape so as to allow the device 10 to be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced.

FIGURES 0023 The device 10 comprises a central hub 12 from which two reservoirs 14, each of which may be assembled by screwing the male 20 and female 28 portions together until the two parts of the device 10 are firmly connected. The reservoirs 14 may be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced. The central hub 12 is a cover in shape so as to allow the device 10 to be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced.

FIGURES 0025 The central hub 12 of the device 10 comprises a central hub 12 from which two reservoirs 14, each of which may be assembled by screwing the male 20 and female 28 portions together until the two parts of the device 10 are firmly connected. The reservoirs 14 may be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced. The central hub 12 is a cover in shape so as to allow the device 10 to be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced.

FIGURES 0027 The central hub 12 of the device 10 comprises a central hub 12 from which two reservoirs 14, each of which may be assembled by screwing the male 20 and female 28 portions together until the two parts of the device 10 are firmly connected. The reservoirs 14 may be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced. The central hub 12 is a cover in shape so as to allow the device 10 to be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced.

FIGURES 0029 The central hub 12 of the device 10 comprises a central hub 12 from which two reservoirs 14, each of which may be assembled by screwing the male 20 and female 28 portions together until the two parts of the device 10 are firmly connected. The reservoirs 14 may be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced. The central hub 12 is a cover in shape so as to allow the device 10 to be filled with a filling 21 of sand, gravel, or other material to be balanced.

FIGURES 0031 Various embodiments of the disclosed invention may be contemplated as described in FIGS. 8-10. The shape and size of the device 10 and the function of the invention may vary from the preferred embodiment without changing the essence and function of the invention. Therefore, the appended claims and legal equivalents are determined by the description and the figures provided.