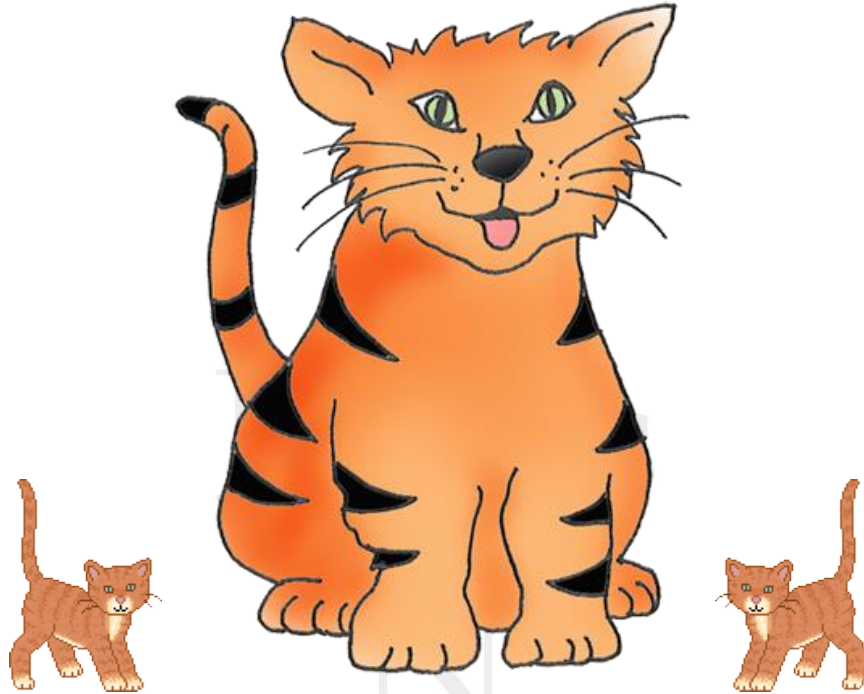


CAT WHISKERS



Cat whiskers are far more important than you might think.

The most sensitive hairs on a body are called tactile hairs.

On cats they are commonly referred to as whiskers.

They are found on a cat's upper lip, chin and where their eyebrows would be.

Take a look behind your cat's front paws. There are also whiskers there!

Cats usually have about 12 whiskers in four rows on either side of their muzzle. The top row of whiskers move independently of the middle row.

They are all connected to nerve fibers deep inside your cat's skin.

These very special hairs on their faces are extremely sensitive and can detect changes in air current and vibrations that help your cat to locate prey as well as a safe escape route.

Whiskers on their ankles help with captured prey in their clutches.

Cats are farsighted and often can't see what's right under their noses and the whiskers help.

Your cat's whiskers also communicate three distinct moods:

- Whiskers flat against the cheeks means shy
- Fully fanned and a bit forward equals a tense or excited cat
- In a neutral position, as if when sleeping, indicates calmness