

CAT BODY LANGUAGE



Like humans, cats use body movements and facial expressions to let you and other cats know what's on their mind.

- When cats are relaxed and content, they turn their ears forward, close their eyes halfway and purr
- When cats are alert, their eyes are completely opened, and whiskers stand out
- When cats are afraid, they draw their ears back and fold them downward
- When cats are feeling aggressive, they have flattened ears, taut facial muscles, bared teeth, and dilated pupils; they will also bring their whiskers forward
- When cats feel threatened, they stare. In fact, when you look at him/her, it's a good idea to blink your eyes occasionally, to let the cat know it is a friendly look
- When your cat feels threatened, it will arch its back and puff up its fur. This makes the cat appear larger to other cats
- If your cat trusts you, it may roll over to show its belly. This is a friendly sign. It's best not to rub its belly as the gesture may not be liked and you can easily get clawed

THE TAIL END



Moving his tail is another way your cat “talk” to you.

- Tail held erect for the full length means friendly greeting to another cat or human
- Tail curves gently down, then up at the tip means cat relaxed and at peace with the world
- Tail raised slightly and softly curved means cat is becoming interested in something
- Tail lowered and possibly tucked between the hind legs give sign of defeat or total submissiveness
- Tail swishing from side to side means cat is angry and about to attack
- Tail held still but with tip twitching equals mild irritation.

CAT TALK



Your cat may also use his voice to communicate. Cats make over 100 different vocal sounds from meows to gurgles to purrs. The more you talk to your cat, the more he will talk back to you. Soon you will recognize his sounds and know what he wants.

Generally, the more rapid, intense, and loud the sounds, the more panicked, scared, and anxious your cat may be. And the slower and less intense the sounds, the more confident or potentially assertive your cat is.

FOLLOWING THEIR NOSES

You've probably noticed your cat nuzzling up to you. He takes his face and rubs against your hand or your face or even your foot. He may also nuzzle up to the other things like chairs or his scratching post. It feels like a hug, doesn't it? What your cat is doing is leaving his

scent through a special substance called a pheromone (fer'-a-mon). This substance is secreted from glands on your cat's cheek (he also has these glands on the underside of the paws and under his tail).

Smells are one of the most important ways your cat learns about this environment and other cats in it. When your cat deposits his scent around the house, it makes him feel comfortable. The house seems familiar to him. If you have more than one cat, you may notice them butting heads and rubbing their cheeks on each other. Only cats, comfortable with each other will engage in mutual rubbing.

Paws

I LOVE YOU

Does your cat say I love you? I'll bet he does. When he wants to let you know he loves you he might nuzzle your face and touch your nose with his. Or he might bring you a present that he has killed. Or he might just try to be with you wherever you are in the house. Your cat may do something else to say I love you. But, I'll be it's the easiest to understand of all!