

## CATS

The cat, also known as the domestic cat, is a small carnivorous mammal that is valued by humans for its companionship and its ability to hunt vermin and household pests. It has been associated with humans for at least 9,500 years and is currently the most popular pet in the world.

A skilled predator, the cat is known to hunt over 1,000 species for food. It can be trained to obey simple commands. Individual cats have also been known to learn on their own to manipulate simple mechanisms, such as doorknobs and toilet handles. Cats use a variety of vocalizations and types of body language for communication, including meowing, purring, hissing, growling and squeaking.

Cats are active both day and night, although they tend to be slightly more active at night. The timing of cats' activity is quite flexible and varied, which means that house cats may be more active in the morning and evening, as a response to greater human activity at these times.

Cats conserve energy by sleeping more than most animals, especially as they grow older. The daily duration of sleep is usually 12–16 hours. The term cat nap refers to the cat's ability to fall asleep for a brief period and has entered the English lexicon—someone who nods off for a few minutes is said to be "taking a cat nap".

### Senses

- Cats have excellent night vision and can function at only one-sixth the light level required for human vision. This is partly the result of cat eyes having a tapetum lucidum, which reflects any light that passes through the retina back into the eye, thereby increasing the eye's sensitivity to dim light.
- Cats have excellent hearing and can detect an extremely broad range of frequencies. They can hear higher - pitched sounds than either dogs or humans.
- Cats have an acute sense of smell.
- Due to a mutation in an early cat ancestor, one of two genes necessary to taste sweetness may have been lost by the cat family. Their taste buds instead respond to amino acids, bitter tastes and acids.

### Facts about cats:

- Cats are born with blue eyes. They change at approximately 12 weeks of age.
- A cat uses its whiskers to tell if the space they are contemplating entering is big enough for them.
- Sometimes your cat will find it difficult to find the treats you throw him on the floor. The reason is because cats can't see directly under their own nose.
- Cats can jump between 5 & 7 times as high as their tail.
- Cats not only walk on their toes but they have 5 toes on their front paws and 4 toes on their back paws.
- A cat eats grass as it helps in digestion and also gets rid of fur in its stomach.
- There are more bones in a cat's body compared to a human's. A cat has at least 230 while a human has 206.
- A cat's urine gleams under black light.