

Reading Your Cat's Body Language

Cats are sometimes thought of as mysterious creatures whose behavior cannot be explained. However, like all intelligent creatures, cats have very specific body language that pet owners can learn to interpret and use to form a better relationship with their kitties. Here are a few examples:

- When a cat's tail is standing up tall, all is terrific. When it is at half-mast, all is not terrific. When it is dropped low, that means, "I'm very unhappy."
- When it twitches back and forth, she is saying, "back off." When only the tip twitches, she is trying to tell you that she is self-conscious of her behavior.
- When it's bushy, she means, "I'm angry!"



A cat's ears can communicate volumes as well. Here are some of the translations of your cat's ear movements:

- Ears alert/straight up means, "I'm ready for fun or affection."
- Ears flat out sideways means, "What's up?"
- Ears downward is a warning; she means, "I'm defensive. Watch out!"
- Ears down and back is an alarm; she is saying, "I'm furious. Watch out!"

Your cat uses her eyes as another method of communication:

- Eyes wide open and looking at you means, "I'm listening."
- Eyes half closed means, "I'm sleepy."
- Eye pupils in slits tell you that she is feeling alert and confident.
- Bug-eyed looks mean, "I'm frightened."...so be careful!
- If she is blinking and winking at you, she is talking to you and saying, "I love you."
- If her eyes are clouded, then she is telling you that she is ill or just very relaxed.
- Eyes staring straight at you mean, "Stay away." A stare is a challenge.

Make sure to take a few minutes every day to have a conversation with your cat. The sound of your voice will help your cat become responsive and friendly.