

# Cat Body Language

## Cat Eyes



Just like humans, a cat's eyes can tell us a lot about how they are feeling. If you want to make friends with a cat - don't stare directly into its eyes. Instead, half squint your eyes. This is known as a 'cat smile'. When a cat is totally relaxed and in a friendly mood, it will 'smile' at you with its eyes, just like in the picture on the left. A playful and alert cat will have 'big' eyes (like the one here on the right). Even though it looks cute, when a cat has 'big' eyes, this is not the best time to approach it for a pat. When a cat's eyes are 'smiling' at you, this means that it would love a pat!



## Cat Tails

When a cat is relaxed and greeting you in a friendly way, it will hold its tail upright in the air with a little 'question mark' at the end (pictured left). When a cat is alert, excited, playful or unhappy, it will hold its tail lower to the ground and swish it from side-to-side (pictured right). It's best not to pat a cat that is giving you this 'sign' - you could end up with a play bite or a scratch!



## Cat Ears

When a cat is relaxed, it will hold its ears in an upright position. When a cat is alert or frightened, its ears will sit far back against the head (pictured right).



## Cat Whiskers

A playful cat will puff its whiskers forward. A relaxed cat will have 'relaxed' whiskers that sit straight out to the sides of their face. A scared or alert cat will have whiskers that sit flat against the face (pictured right).

