
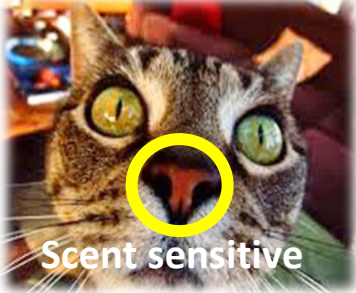





WHAT IS A CAT?	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?
 <p>Predator</p> <p>A cat is a solitary predator, which means that its natural behaviour is to hunt. Even if fed by owners, the instinct to hunt is strong</p> <p>A cat's eyesight, hearing, musculature, teeth and claws all make it a proficient hunter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐱 Cats have to eat a meat-based diet and cannot be vegetarian 🐱 Cats are highly motivated to chase and catch small things that move, they are not being naughty if they catch a mouse and bring it home 🐱 Play can help to satisfy the need to hunt. This can be with toys they can move around themselves or you can play with them by moving a toy on the end of a string 🐱 Cats have efficient hunting weapons: sharp teeth and claws! 🐱 Cats are often more active at dawn and dusk (and at night) when they would be naturally more likely to catch their prey
 <p>Self-reliant</p> <p>A cat is totally responsible for its own survival, it doesn't rely on a pack or a herd to keep safe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐱 Cats' immediate response to danger is to run away or, if they can't escape, they hide 🐱 Providing hiding places for cats means they can get away from anything that frightens them 🐱 Cats like to maintain a sense of control over where they go and what they do. 🐱 Cats like it when people allow them to decide when to interact 🐱 Cats don't like to be restrained and have to get used to being picked up as they have less control
 <p>Territorial</p> <p>A cat stays within a familiar area and actively defends it from other cats it doesn't know. This area, or territory, contains everything the cat needs to survive (eg food, water, shelter etc*)</p> <p><small>*referred to as 'resources'</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐱 Being away from their familiar home can be stressful for cats, so house moves and trips to the vet clinic can be scary 🐱 Introducing other cats into a home may upset a resident cat 🐱 Cats may have territorial disputes, not only with cats outside but with cats in the same household! 🐱 You need plenty of resources to avoid competition in your home if you have more than one cat

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 <p>Scent sensitive</p> <p>A cat's sense of smell is much more sensitive than ours. A cat gets information about its surroundings via its nose and knows when another cat has been around by the odour it leaves behind</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐱 Cats like to surround themselves with familiar smells as it makes them feel safe 🐱 Changing carpets and curtains can be challenging for cats as it changes the familiar scent of the home 🐱 Strong smells such as perfumes, scented candles and room deodorisers can be overpowering for cats 🐱 Even your outdoor shoes can bring in challenging smells from outside
 <p>Socially flexible</p> <p>A cat is socially flexible, but usually its friendliness towards people, dogs and other cats is influenced by having positive experiences of them when it was a young kitten. Coming from friendly pet cat parents helps too</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐱 The cats that make the best pets are those that have a mother cat which is friendly and relaxed with people and, as young kittens, had positive experiences with a variety of people 🐱 Cats and dogs can become good friends!
 <p>Emotional</p> <p>A cat must feel fear, pleasure and frustration to survive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐱 Cats will remember bad experiences, so a painful or frightening trip to the vet may have consequences for future visits 🐱 Owners should pick up on behaviour changes, such as sleeping more or interacting less, as they can indicate an emotional change as well as be a sign of illness
 <p>Adaptable</p> <p>A cat can adapt to living in many different kinds of environment, providing their basic needs are met</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐱 Give cats a safe place to hide 🐱 Give cats multiple resources, eg beds and litter trays 🐱 Give cats opportunities to play 🐱 Give cats positive, consistent interaction with people 🐱 Give cats an environment that respects the importance of their sense of smell