

Cat Signals

Look at the whole cat: ears, tail, eyes and body.

"Hello" signals

Say hello gently. Let the cat decide.

Tail up, with a little curl at the tip
I am relaxed. I may be saying hello.

Ears up and pointing forward
I feel calm.

Slow blinks and half-closed eyes
I feel safe here.

Leaning into your hand
I like this. You may carry on, gently.

"Give me space" signals

Stop. Move away slowly.

Hiding
I want to be alone. Never pull me out or squeeze in with me.

Crouching low, tail tucked in
I feel scared.

Ears flat against my head
I am unhappy or cross.

Tail swishing fast
I am upset. I have had enough.

Fur standing up and back arched
I am very upset.

Growling, hissing or claws out
Stop now. Please go away.

Hold out your hand and let the cat sniff it first. If a cat scratches or bites you, or seems ill, tell a grown-up.

Elthie