



Common Cat Behaviors

Below is a list of common cat behaviors:

Normal & Instinctual Behaviors:

- **Kneading:** This behavior, often seen when cats are comfortable and relaxed, is a rhythmic pushing of paws, reminiscent of "making biscuits".
- **Scratching:** Scratching helps cats sharpen their claws and mark their territory, and it's a natural behavior that should be redirected to appropriate scratching posts.
- **Meowing:** Cats meow to communicate with humans, often to ask for attention, food, or to greet them.
- **Rubbing:** Cats rub against objects and people to leave their scent and mark territory, or to show affection.
- **Climbing:** Cats have a natural inclination to climb, which is a way to explore their environment and fulfill their instincts as predators.
- **Chattering:** This behavior, often accompanied by chirping, occurs when a cat sees prey it can't reach, stemming from their hunting instincts.
- **Drinking:** Cats prefer clean, fresh water, and some may even prefer trickling water from a tap.
- **Hiding:** Cats are natural predators and like to investigate nooks and crannies, but excessive hiding can be a sign of anxiety or distress.
- **Knocking things off tables:** Cats may knock things off tables to get attention or because they are curious.
- **Tail twitching:** Tail twitches can indicate a variety of emotions, from interest and alertness to fear and aggression.
- **Grooming:** Cats groom themselves to maintain their fur and release endorphins, promoting well-being.
- **Purring:** Purring can indicate contentment, relaxation, or even excitement, and is a deliberate action used for communication.

Potential Behavioral Issues & Concerns:

- **Aggression:** Aggression can stem from various causes, including territory disputes, fear, or redirected aggression, and should be addressed by a veterinarian or certified cat behaviorist.
- **Compulsive Behaviors:** Some cats may exhibit compulsive behaviors, like excessive grooming or repetitive actions, which can indicate underlying stress or anxiety.
- **Inappropriate Elimination:** Urinating or defecating outside the litter box can be a sign of stress, anxiety, or a medical issue, and requires investigation by a veterinarian.

Understanding Your Cat's Behavior:

- **Observe your cat's body language:** Pay attention to their posture, tail movements, and facial expressions to better understand their emotions and intentions.
- **Provide a stimulating environment:** Ensure your cat has access to toys, scratching posts, and opportunities for play and exploration.
- **Ensure a safe and comfortable environment:** Cats need a safe space where they can relax and feel secure.