Five Strange but Completely Normal Cat Behaviors

By Jessica Holscher

I own five cats, and they all have their own personality quirks and crazy antics. I’m sure your cats have their own weird behaviors that make them unique and special. There are, however, some strange behaviors that all cats tend to share. While these behaviors seem completely odd, they are actually completely normal. In fact, they generally are your cat’s way of telling you something important.

**Licking You**

Cats are always licking themselves, but what does it mean when your kitty starts to lick you? Don’t worry; your cat doesn’t think you’re dirty. There is more involved than simply cleaning. To cats, getting licked by another cat is soothing. It shows caring. When your cat starts licking you, it is his way of letting you know he cares about you and wants to show you affection. If you find the licking bothersome and unpleasant, do not punish your cat. It is a totally normal behavior, so simply move your hand away from your cat.

**Not Using the Litter Box**

When your cat stops using the litter box, there is definitely a reason. The most obvious reason is the litter box is not clean. Give it a good cleaning, and see if your cat starts using it again. Cats are finicky, so even something as simple as changing the type of litter you use or not putting enough litter in the box could cause your cat to stop using it. There are some instances where not using the litter box could mean something serious. For example, if you cat has a urinary tract infection, urination is painful. Your cat may associate that pain with the litter box and stop using it. If you suspect a serious reason for your cat avoiding the litter box, contact your veterinarian immediately. Above all, remember to be calm and gentle with your cat while you evaluate the problem. Do not yell and punish your cat. It only makes her want to avoid you and the litter box even more.

**Bunting**

Bunting refers to that adorable moment when your cat bumps you with her head. If your cat does this often, there are a few reasons for it. For starters, you cat is letting you know she approves of you. You can think of it as a hug from your cat. Secondly, while your cat is bunting you, she is marking you with her scent. Scent is how cats recognize that something belongs in their home or belongs to them. By rubbing her scent on you, your cat is letting everyone know that you are her human, and you belong to her.

**Rolling Around**

I have one cat who just can’t stop rolling around on the dirty ground, and I’m sure you’ve spotted your cat doing this a few times. This is a pretty normal behavior and shows you two things. Firstly, this is your cat’s way of saying that he wants to play and needs some attention from you. The second thing this shows you is that your cat trusts you and feels safe. Generally, cats keep their tummies guarded, but when a cat feels relaxed, he is happy to expose his belly.

**Scratching**

Two of my cats love to scratch everything they can find. While it is frustrating, it is also normal. Think of your cat scratching as getting a manicure. Scratching helps to manage claws and keeps them from getting too long. Of course, you don’t want your furniture ruined, so provide some alternative scratching objects. Try different scratching posts until you find the one your cat likes the best. Place the scratching post near the furniture your cat normally destroys. In addition, make the inappropriate objects unpleasant for kitty. Use double sided tape or plastic to make your cat want to avoid the inappropriate object. Eventually, your cat will learn to avoid the inappropriate objects and use the scratching posts.

**Conclusion**

Like humans, cats are all unique and different; however, they possess many of the same traits and behaviors. Knowing what these behaviors mean really improves your relationship with your cat. The behaviors listed here are normal cat behaviors; however, if you feel that your cat has taken these behaviors too far, it is best to check with your veterinarian to rule out possible illness. Whatever the reason, always be calm and gentle with cats to avoid worsening behaviors.