

In the 1930s, two Russian biologists discovered that color change in Siamese kittens depend on their body temperature. Siamese cats carry albino genes that work only when the body temperature is above 98° F. If these kittens are left in a very warm room, their points won't darken and they will stay a creamy white.

Heat occurs several times a year and can last anywhere from 3 to 15 days.

Florence Nightingale owned more than 60 cats in her lifetime.

The cat who holds the record for the longest non-fatal fall is Andy. He fell from the 16th floor of an apartment building (about 200 ft/.06 km) and survived.

Tabby cats are thought to get their name from Attab, a district in Baghdad, now the capital of Iraq.

Cats lap liquid from the underside of their tongue, not from the top.

Cats purr at the same frequency as an idling diesel engine, about 26 cycles per second.

Cats are now Britain's favourite pet: there are 7.7 million cats as opposed to 6.6 million dogs.

Cats come back to full alertness from the sleep state faster than any other creature.

The chlorine in fresh tap water irritates sensitive parts of the cat's nose. Let tap water sit for 24 hours before giving it to a cat.

Cats have the largest eyes of any mammal.

In the original Italian version of Cinderella, the benevolent fairy godmother figure was a cat.

The average litter of kittens is between 2 - 6 kittens.

The term "puss" is the root of the principal word for "cat" in the Romanian term pisica and the root of secondary words in Lithuanian (puz) and Low German puus. Some scholars suggest that "puss" could be imitative of the hissing sound used to get a cat's attention. As a slang word for the female pudenda, it could be associated with the connotation of a cat being soft, warm, and fuzzy.

Approximately 40,000 people are bitten by cats in the U.S. annually.

Polydactyl cats (a cat with 1-2 extra toes on their paws) have this as a result of a genetic mutation. These cats are also referred to as 'Hemingway cats' because writer Ernest Hemingway reportedly owned dozens of them at his home in Key West, Florida.

A cat's normal temperature varies around 101 degrees Fahrenheit.

A cat uses its whiskers for measuring distances. The whiskers of a cat are capable of registering very small changes in air pressure.

Ancient Egyptian family members shaved their eyebrows in mourning when the family cat died.

The richest cat is Blackie who was left £15 million by his owner, Ben Rea.

In ancient Egypt, when a family cat died, all family members would shave their eyebrows as a sign of mourning.

Cats have "nine lives" thanks to a flexible spine and powerful leg and back muscles

A cat's hearing is better than a dog's. And a cat can hear high-frequency sounds up to two octaves higher

than a human.

Your cat's heart beats at a rate almost double that of yours, from 110-140 beats per minute.

Miacis, the primitive ancestor of cats, was a small, tree-living creature of the late Eocene period, some 45 to 50 million years ago.

Cats' hearing stops at 65 khz (kilohertz); humans' hearing stops at 20 khz.

The domestic cat is the only species able to hold its tail vertically while walking. You can also learn about your cat's present state of mind by observing the posture of his tail.

Statistics indicate that animal lovers in recent years have shown a preference for cats over dogs!

Blue-eyed, white cats are often prone to deafness.

A cat has more bones than a human being; humans have 206 and the cat has 230 bones.

Sir Isaac Newton is credited with creating the concept for the pet door that many cats use today to travel outdoors.

Cats are the world's most popular pets, outnumbering dogs by as many as three to one

The Egyptian Mau is probably the oldest breed of cat. In fact, the breed is so ancient that its name is the Egyptian word for "cat."

A cat's whiskers are thought to be a kind of radar, which helps a cat gauge the space it intends to walk through.

Cats see six times better in the dark and at night than humans.

Cats' hearing is much more sensitive than humans and dogs.

The cat's tail is used to maintain balance.

Many cats cannot properly digest cow's milk. Milk and milk products give them diarrhea.

Cats are subject to gum disease and to dental caries. They should have their teeth cleaned by the vet or the cat dentist once a year.

The Pilgrims were the first to introduce cats to North America.

The silks created by weavers in Baghdad were inspired by the beautiful and varied colors and markings of cat coats. These fabrics were called 'tabby' by European traders.

The Ancient Egyptian word for cat was mau, which means "to see".

Unlike other cats, lions have a tuft of hair at the end of their tails.

Lions are the only cats that live in groups, called prides. Every female within the pride is usually related.

Cats control the outer ear using 32 muscles; humans use 6

Purring does not always indicate that a cat is happy. Cats will also purr loudly when they are distressed or in pain.

Cats have supersonic hearing

The normal body temperature of a cat is between 100.5 ° and 102.5 °F. A cat is sick if its temperature goes below 100 ° or above 103 °F.

Tylenol and chocolate are both poisonous to cats.

70% of your cat's life is spent asleep.

The cheetah is the world's fastest land mammal. It can run at speeds of up to 70 miles an hour (113 kilometers an hour).

A cat's normal pulse is 140-240 beats per minute, with an average of 195.

It has been scientifically proven that stroking a cat can lower one's blood pressure.

After humans, mountain lions have the largest range of any mammal in the Western Hemisphere.

Cats only sweat through their paws and nowhere else on their body

Cat families usually play best in even numbers. Cats and kittens should be acquired in pairs whenever possible.

The first formal cat show was held in England in 1871; in America, in 1895.

Most cats give birth to a litter of between one and nine kittens. The largest known litter ever produced was 19 kittens, of which 15 survived.

Cats respond better to women than to men, probably due to the fact that women's voices have a higher pitch.

In Siam, the cat was so revered that one rode in a chariot at the head of a parade celebrating the new king.

A cat rubs against people not only to be affectionate but also to mark out its territory with scent glands around its face. The tail area and paws also carry the cat's scent.

The technical term for a cat's hairball is a "bezoar."

When a family cat died in ancient Egypt, family members would mourn by shaving off their eyebrows. They also held elaborate funerals during which they drank wine and beat their breasts. The cat was embalmed with a sculpted wooden mask and the tiny mummy was placed in the family tomb or in a pet cemetery with tiny mummies of mice.

Cats spend nearly 1/3 of their waking hours cleaning themselves.

Cats bury their feces to cover their trails from predators.

A cat has approximately 60 to 80 million olfactory cells (a human has between 5 and 20 million).

The cat has 500 skeletal muscles (humans have 650).

A cat sees about 6 times better than a human at night, and needs 1/6 the amount of light that a human does - it has a layer of extra reflecting cells which absorb light.

Cats have individual preferences for scratching surfaces and angles. Some are horizontal scratchers while others exercise their claws vertically.

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The first cat show was organized in 1871 in London. Cat shows later became a worldwide craze.

Perhaps the most famous comic cat is the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. With the ability to disappear, this mysterious character embodies the magic and sorcery historically associated with cats.

Cat paws act as temperature regulators, shock absorbers, hunting and grooming tools, sensors, and more

Cats have 300 million neurons; dogs have about 160 million

The tiniest cat on record is Mr. Pebbles, a 2-year-old cat that weighed 3 lbs (1.3 k) and was 6.1 inches (15.5 cm) high.

Cats lived with soldiers in trenches, where they killed mice during World War I.

A cat lover is called an Ailurophilia (Greek: cat+lover).

In ancient Egypt, mummies were made of cats, and embalmed mice were placed with them in their tombs. In one ancient city, over 300,000 cat mummies were found.

The heaviest cat on record is Himmy, a Tabby from Queensland, Australia. He weighed nearly 47 pounds (21 kg). He died at the age of 10.

People who are allergic to cats are actually allergic to cat saliva or to cat dander. If the resident cat is bathed regularly the allergic people tolerate it better.