

Know About Cat



The **cat** (*Felis catus*) is a [domestic species](#) of small [carnivorous mammal](#).^{[1][2]} It is the only domesticated species in the family [Felidae](#) and is often referred to as the **domestic cat** to distinguish it from the wild members of the family.^[4] A cat can either be a **house cat**, a [farm cat](#) or a [feral cat](#); the latter ranges freely and avoids human contact.^[5] Domestic cats are valued by humans for companionship and their ability to hunt [rodents](#). About 60 [cat breeds](#) are recognized by various [cat registries](#).^[6]

The cat is similar in [anatomy](#) to the other felid species: it has a strong flexible body, quick [reflexes](#), sharp teeth and [retractable claws](#) adapted to killing small prey. Its [night vision](#) and sense of smell are well developed. [Cat communication](#) includes [vocalizations](#) like [meowing](#), [purring](#), [trilling](#), hissing, [growling](#) and grunting as well as [cat-specific body language](#). A [predator](#) that is most active at dawn and dusk, the cat is a solitary hunter but a [social species](#). It can hear sounds too faint or too high in [frequency](#) for human ears, such as those made by [mice](#) and other small mammals.^[7] It secretes and perceives [pheromones](#).^[8]

Female domestic cats can have kittens from spring to late autumn, with litter sizes often ranging from two to five kittens.^[9] Domestic cats are bred and shown at events as registered [pedigreed cats](#), a hobby known as [cat fancy](#). Failure to control breeding of [pet](#) cats by [spaying](#) and [neutering](#), as well as abandonment of pets, resulted in large numbers of feral cats worldwide, contributing to the extinction of entire bird, mammal, and reptile species, and evoking [population control](#).^[10]

Cats were first domesticated in the [Near East](#) around 7500 BC. It was long thought that cat domestication was initiated in [ancient Egypt](#), as since around 3100 BC veneration was given to [cats in ancient Egypt](#).^{[12][13]} As of 2021 there are an estimated 220 million owned and 480 million stray cats in the world.^{[14][15]} As of 2017, the domestic cat was the second-most popular pet in the United States, with 95 million cats owned. In the United Kingdom, 26% of adults have a cat with an estimated population of 10.9 million pet cats as of 2020.

A **mew** is a high-pitched meow often produced by domestic kittens. It is apparently used to solicit attention from the kitten's mother, and adult cats may use it as well. The mew is similar to what is described in Brown et al. as an isolation call (1978). By around three to four weeks of age, kittens do not mew when at least one littermate is present, and at four to five months of age, kittens stop mewling altogether. Adult cats rarely meow to each other, and so adult meowing to human beings is likely to be a post-domestication extension of mewling by kittens.

The chirr or chirrup sounds like a meow rolled on the tongue. It is commonly used by mother cats calling their kittens inside the nest. Kittens recognize their own mother's chirp, but they do not respond to the chirps of other mothers. It is also used by friendly cats when eliciting the approach of another cat or a human. Humans can mimic the sound to reassure and greet pet cats.