

## Cats: Body Language 101

### Signs of a FRIENDLY cat:

- Ears up
- Eyes open wide with small pupils
- Tail up, quivering, or...tail up with tip tilted
- May rub against you
- Eyes could alternatively be squinty and purring.



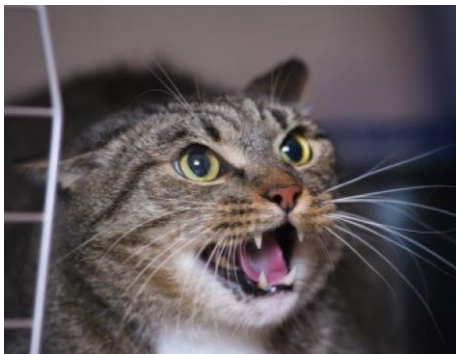
Signs



of an

### AGGRESSIVE cat:

- Ears flat against head
- Crouched body posture as if ready to pounce
- Growling/ hissing/ spitting
- Pupils dilated
- Possible swatting to keep you away.



### Signs of a SCARED or UNSOCIAL cat:

- Cat may seem immobile in the cage, or backing away or up cage walls
- Flight risk
- Pupils dilated or eyes closed

- Ears out
- Clenched body posture with tail held close to the body
- Tail low and fluffed out
- Quick flicking of tail
- Facing away from you and/or hiding in litter box.

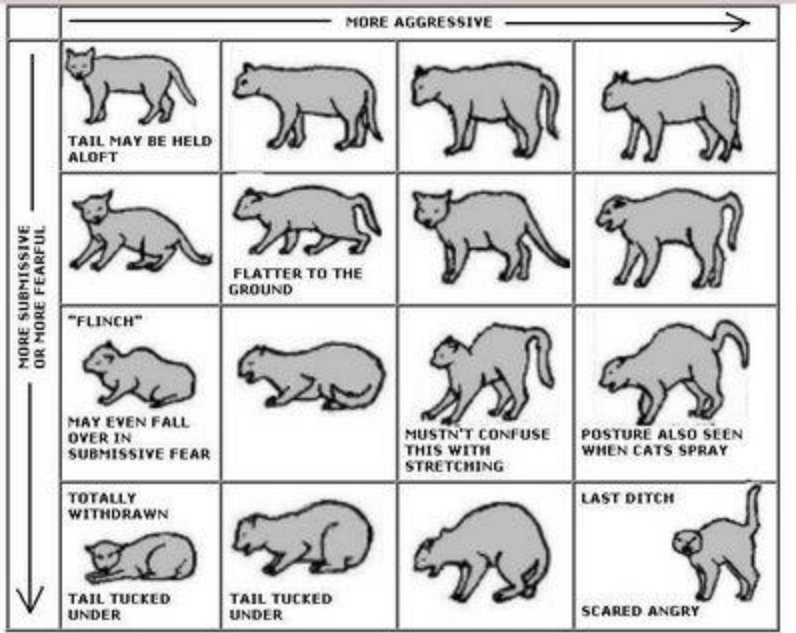


#### Signs of a FRUSTRATED cat:

- Consider if over stimulated vs. under stimulated
- May be pacing in the cage
- Very vocal
- In your face
- Tail whipping high in air
- Flight risk
- "Light-switch", watch for sudden changes

These are movement characteristics and not adequately represented in pictures.

Look at the full picture being presented by the cat when reading body language – many signals overlap.



The Telltale Tail

