

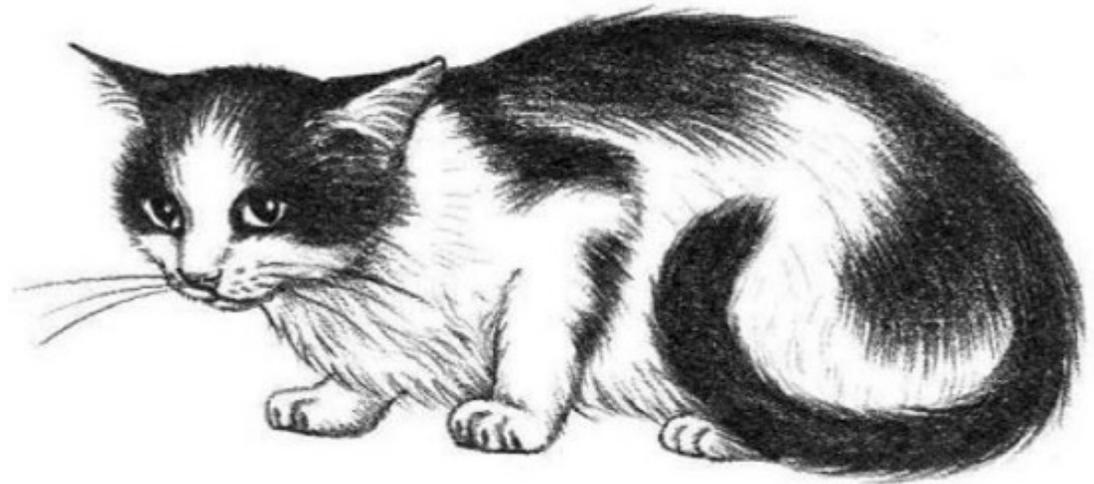
# Body posture

## Relaxed Confident Cat

- Relaxed pupils
- Paws may make muffins
- Belly semi-exposed
- Whiskers at side
- Head and ears up/alert



# Body posture



## Anxious Cat

- Body hunched, may be tense
- Ears out to side
- Pupils enlarged
- Tail tucked tight to body, may be hidden

# Body posture

## Defensive-Aggression

- Pupils fully dilated
- Ears flat/back to body
- Teeth exposed
- Body backed into corner/tight space



# Environment

- Aspects to consider while assessing a cat
  - What is the cat smelling
    - Other animals scents
    - Foreign scents
  - What is the cat hearing
    - Other animals or people
    - Loud, sudden noises
  - What is the cat feeling
    - Fear/stress
    - Vibrations from cage or uneven bed
  - What is the cat seeing
    - Is there any enrichment available?
    - Able to see other animals inside/outside



# Should I approach/pet?

Friendly, interaction ok

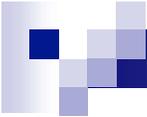


Await approach



No way





When in doubt...

Keep it simple!

Closed



Open



# When meeting a new cat



## Paws to Consider

- Body language of cat
- Your body language
- Environment

# What do both of these greetings have in common



1. Cats have relaxed/accepting body language
2. Hands are extended and relaxed
3. Approach is below face level
4. Cats allowed to make the first move
5. Respect

# After greeting a new cat



- Don't push the issue
- Respect boundaries
- Allow the cat to show you where it is comfortable being pet
- Stick to generally accepted places
  - Head
  - Cheeks
  - Chin

# Holding a cat

- Don't scruff
- Gently place one hand under/ across the chest and the other under the hind
- Lean cat against your body for additional support
- Supportive not restrictive
- Don't restrict movement of tail or feet
- Allow cat to escape if he/she wants
- Be mindful of how your cat acts while being held and adjust accordingly



# Holding a cat – break this down



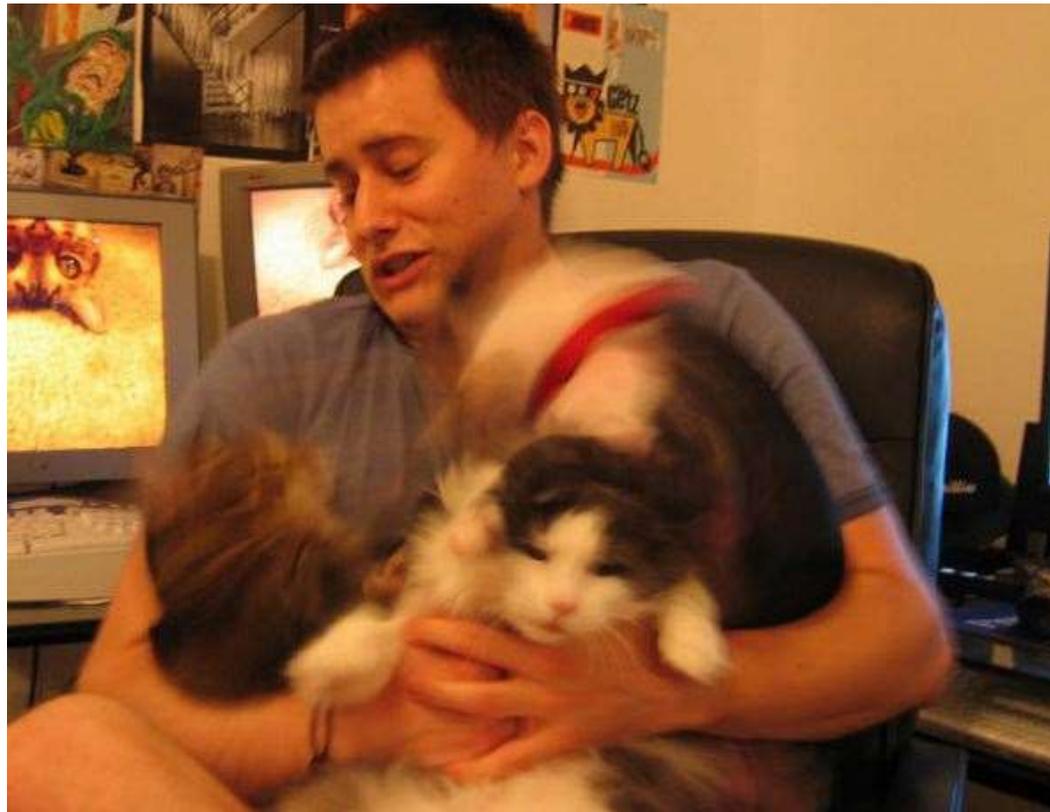
# Holding a cat – break this down



# Holding a cat – break this down



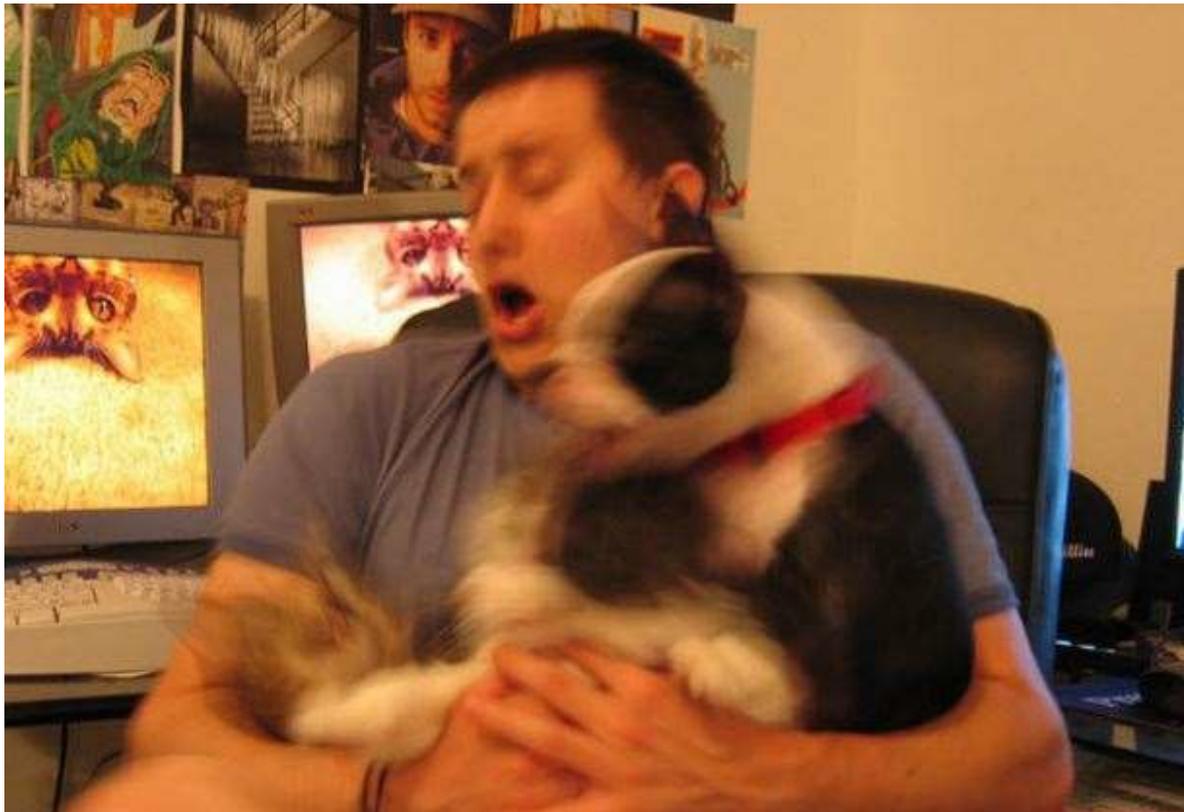
# Holding a cat – break this down



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# Holding a cat – break this down



# Respecting Boundaries

## Signs of increasing agitation

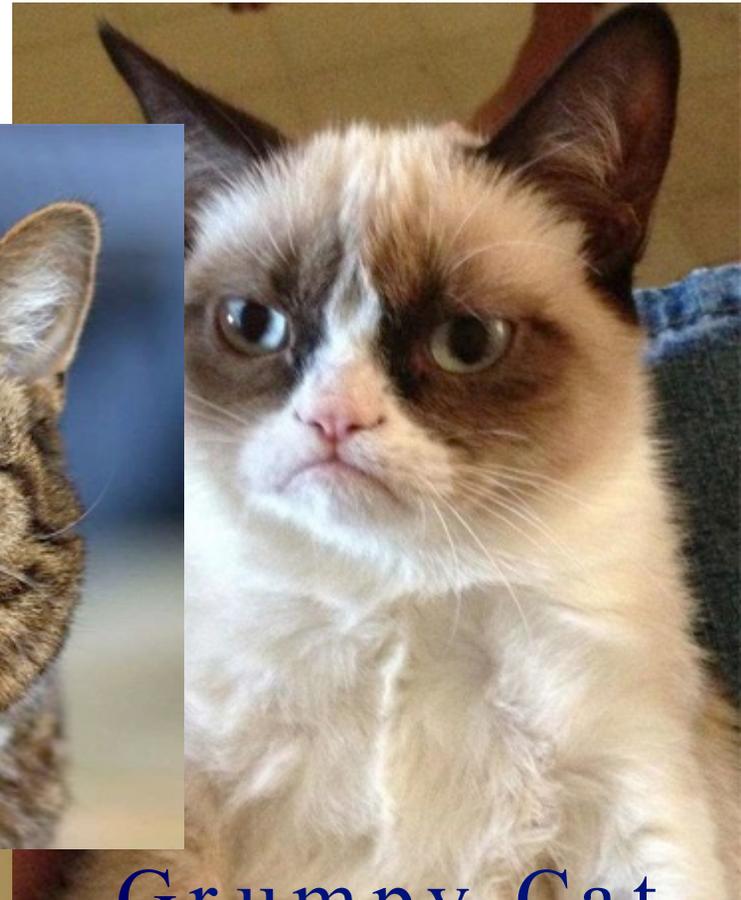
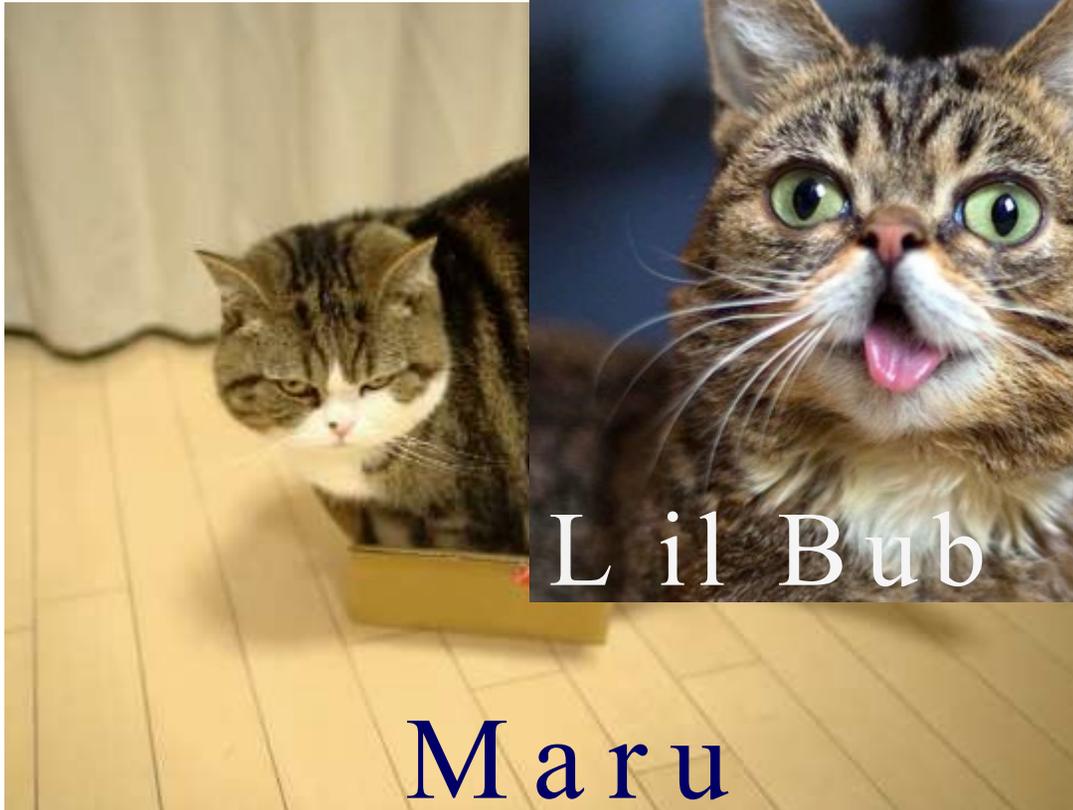


- Sudden change in body position
- Cessation of purring
- Twitching of skin
- Head snapping

# Cats = Internet Favorites



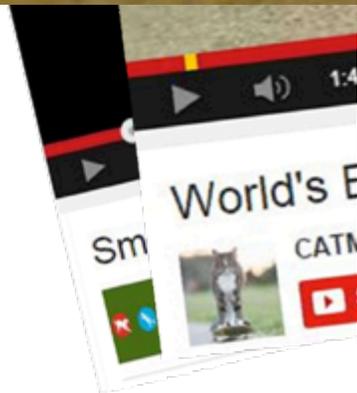
# Cats of the internet



# Cats – More than Youtube Jerks



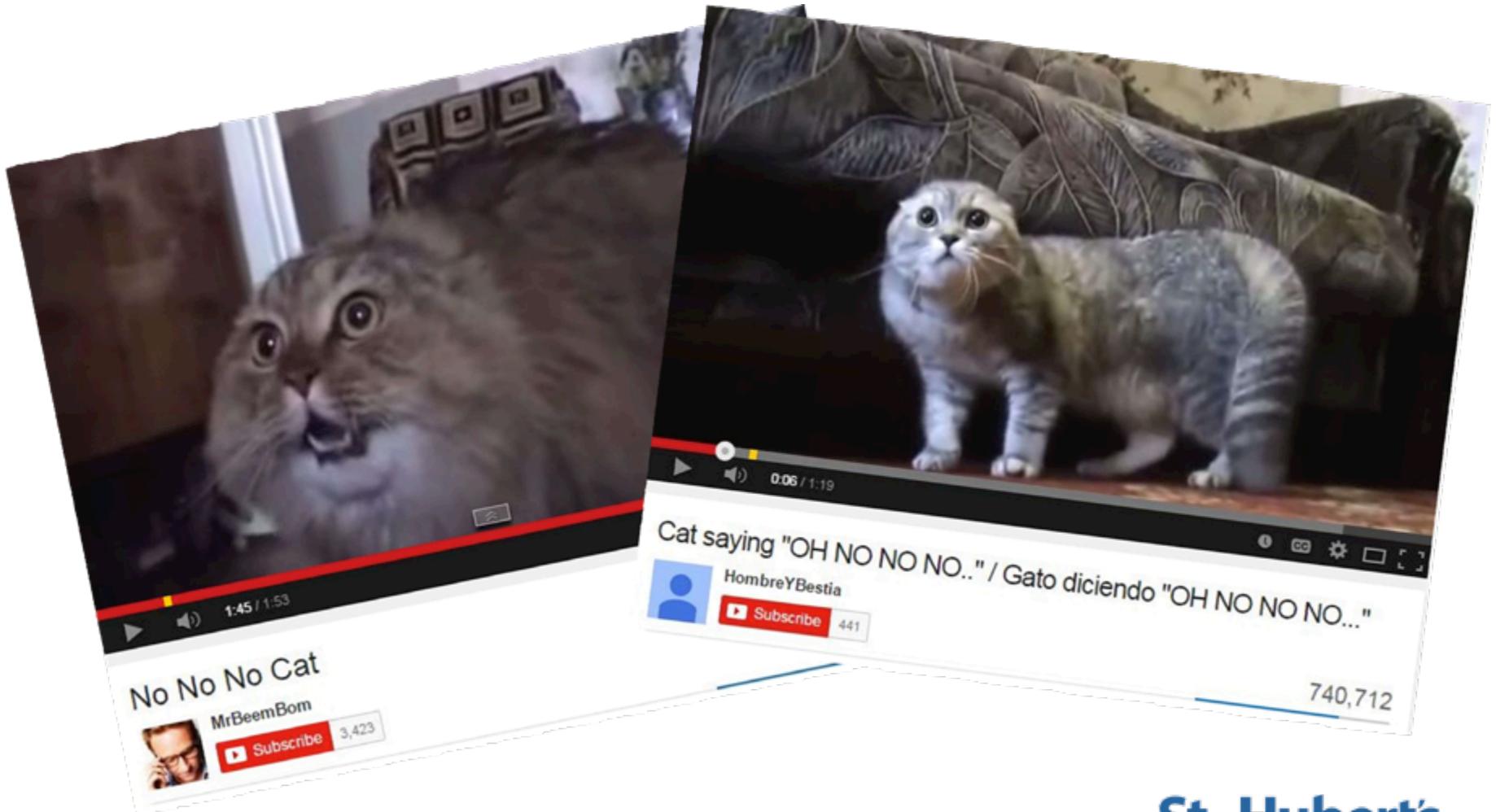
# Smart



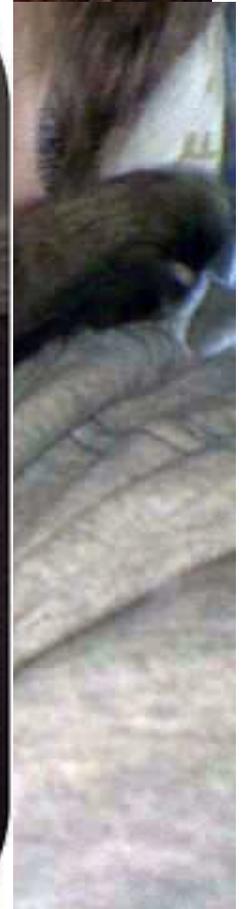
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1,817,144

# Misunderstood



# Loving



Did you know?



Any questions?

