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

St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center
When meeting a new cat

(filePath)

• 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
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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

Lil Bub
Maru
Grumpy Cat
Cats – More than Youtube Jerks
Smart

World's Best Cat

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center
Misunderstood
Loving
Did you know?
Any questions?