



## READING YOUR CAT'S BODY LANGUAGE

### The Meow Story...

#### ***THE TALE OF THE TAIL...***

- ◆ When the tail is flying high: "all is terrific."
- ◆ When it is at half-mast: "all is not terrific."
- ◆ When it is dropped low: "I'm very unhappy."
- ◆ When it twitches back and forth: "back off."
- ◆ When the tip twitches: "I'm self conscious."
- ◆ When it's bushy: "I'm angry!"

#### ***TONGUES TALK WHEN CATS GROOM...***

- Embarrassment: Rapid, non-stop licking.
- OK: Short staccato licks looking at you.
- Boredom: Constant, deep intense licks.
- Nervousness: Short, shallow licks.
- Affection: The cat licks you. A good time to train.

#### ***THE EAR STORY...***

- Ears alert/straight up: Ready for fun or affection.
- Ears flat out sideways: "What's up?"
- Ears downward: "I'm defensive. Watch out!"
- Ears down and back: "I'm furious. Watch out!"

#### ***LISTEN TO MY PAWS...***

- Paw kneading: "I'm content."
- Paw strokes, Paw hugs: "I love you."
- Paw nagging: "Hurry up!"
- Paw blows: "A fight!"

#### ***THE EYES SAY IT...***

- ◆ Eyes wide open and looking at you: "I'm listening."
- ◆ Eyes half closed: "I'm sleepy."
- ◆ Eye pupils in slits: "I'm feeling alert and confident."
- ◆ Bug-eyed: "I'm frightened." ... so be careful!
- ◆ Blinking and winking: "I'm talking to you, I like you."
- ◆ Eyes clouded: "I'm ill." or, "I'm relaxed."
- ◆ Eyes staring: "Stay away." A stare is a challenge.

**Advice: Take a few minutes every day to have a conversation with your cat. The sound of your voice will help your cat become responsive and friendly.**