



## Fabulous Felines

Are you curious about the characteristics and habits of cats? Do you want to get to know your kitty a little better? Read on to learn more about your cat's body and behaviors!

### Whiskers

#### **What are they?**

Whiskers are long, thick hairs on a cat's face.

#### **Why do cats need whiskers?**

Whiskers help a cat feel his way around. A cat's cheek whiskers are about the width of his body. A cat will stick his head in and out of an opening before he puts his body in. If his whiskers don't fit, the rest of him won't either!

### Purring

#### **What is purring?**

Purring is a low, rattling hum that cats make.

#### **How does a cat purr?**

Some cat experts believe that the sound originates in a cat's throat, where their vocal chords are. A special muscle causes their vocal chords to open and close rapidly. When this happens, and because your kitty is breathing at the same time, it causes the purring sound!

#### **When do cats purr?**

Cats purr when they are happy and content! However, they can also purr when they are in pain or upset as a way to self-soothe, or make themselves feel better.

### Sleeping

#### **Why do cats sleep so much?**

The domestic cat's ancestor, the wild cat, slept for long periods of time to conserve energy for hunting. Our domestic cats still have that trait and sleep an average of 16 hours per day. That means that cats spend 2/3 of their life asleep!

# Fabulous Felines (page 2)

## Kneading

### What is kneading?

When cats push their arms in and out on your arm or lap they are kneading. This is one way cats show us they feel safe and content.

## Grooming

### Why do cats spend so much time grooming themselves?

Cats like to be clean. When they lick themselves with their barbed tongues they remove loose fur, dirt, and parasites like fleas. You can help your cat with this task by brushing them regularly!

