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Changes in your cat's behaviour. What's important?

I'm sure you could predict where to find your cat a certain times of the day. When they'll be sunbaking, snoozing, demanding food or playing hide and seek with you. You probably can predict when they'll want to use the litter tray or go outside. You most likely know what they'll prefer to eat and when. You probably also know what certain meows mean and when they're in a good or bad mood by tail position, ear twitching and their body posture.

The hours we spend watching, feeding and interacting with our cats helps us know their special ways. If you know their normal behaviour you are also the best person to detect a change in their ways.

Behavioural changes are the first reason you might adjust your antennae and tune in a bit more closely to your cat. Why didn't Felix come for dinner? Why is he lying on the rug and not on his favourite chair? How is it that his water bowl is empty again? Why is he dribbling or scratching his ear? Some behavioural changes might immediately concern you and prompt a visit to the vet, such as limping or holding an eye shut... but others can be more subtle.

For example; did you know the first sign of a snake bite is often a change in pitch to the meow?

Thyroid disease is a common illness in older cats. Some of the first signs of this disease are more night time meowing and an increase in appetite.

Dental disease is a very common ailment in cats. Any change to appetite, eating habits and jaw movement would warrant a visit to the vet for checking out.

Changes in drinking and weeing are early indicators of a variety of illnesses common to cats such as diabetes, urinary tract infections and kidney problems. Early detection can make all the difference in outcome.

Some cats due to their diet can become low in potassium levels. This can show up as muscle weakness, the most obvious sign being a weak neck giving the cat a slightly droopy head.

Even slight changes to temperament, such as not tolerating stroking as much, or seeking you out less, could be signs of pain or other illnesses.



Cats are lucky to have observant owners- all you need to know is what is normal for your cat, to be able give them the help they need, when they need it!