

What does a healthy cat look like?



Eyes, mouth and ears



- Clear and bright eyes
- Clean ears with no waxy build up
- Tongue and gums pink and moist
- No ulcers, redness or bleeding around nose and mouth

- YES – gums healthy

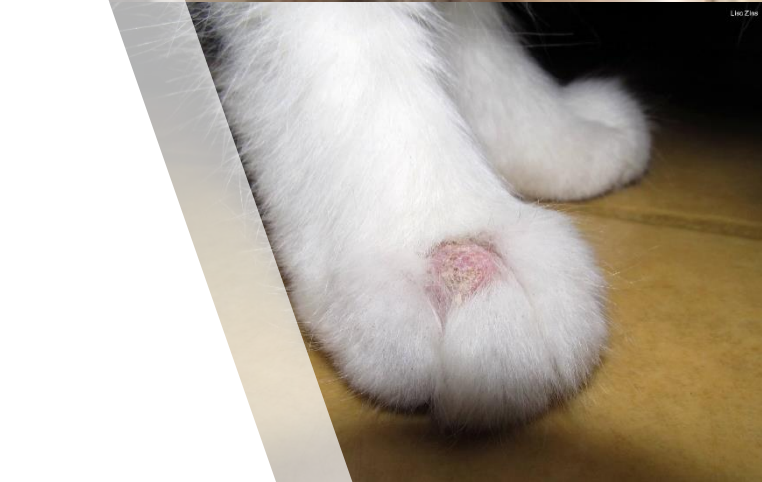
- NO – pale gums



Skin and Coat



- Soft and shiny
- No dandruff or dry skin
- No fleas or flea dirt
- No matting
- Whiskers long and clean
- No bald spots



Body condition





WSAVA
Global Nutrition
Committee

Body Condition Score



UNDER IDEAL

- 1 Ribs visible on shorthaired coats. No palpable fat. Severe abdominal tuck. Lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia easily palpated.
- 2 Ribs easily visible on shorthaired coats. Lumbar vertebrae obvious. Pronounced abdominal tuck. No palpable fat.
- 3 Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering. Lumbar vertebrae obvious. Obvious waist behind ribs. Minimal abdominal fat.

IDEAL

- 4 Ribs palpable with minimal fat covering. Noticeable waist behind ribs. Slight abdominal tuck. Abdominal fat pad absent.
- 5 Well-proportioned. Observe waist behind ribs. Ribs palpable with slight fat covering. Abdominal fat pad minimal.

OVER IDEAL

- 6 Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist and abdominal fat pad distinguishable but not obvious. Abdominal tuck absent.
- 7 Ribs not easily palpated with moderate fat covering. Waist poorly discernible. Obvious rounding of abdomen. Moderate abdominal fat pad.
- 8 Ribs not palpable with excess fat covering. Waist absent. Obvious rounding of abdomen with prominent abdominal fat pad. Fat deposits present over lumbar area.
- 9 Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs. Distention of abdomen with no waist. Extensive abdominal fat deposits.

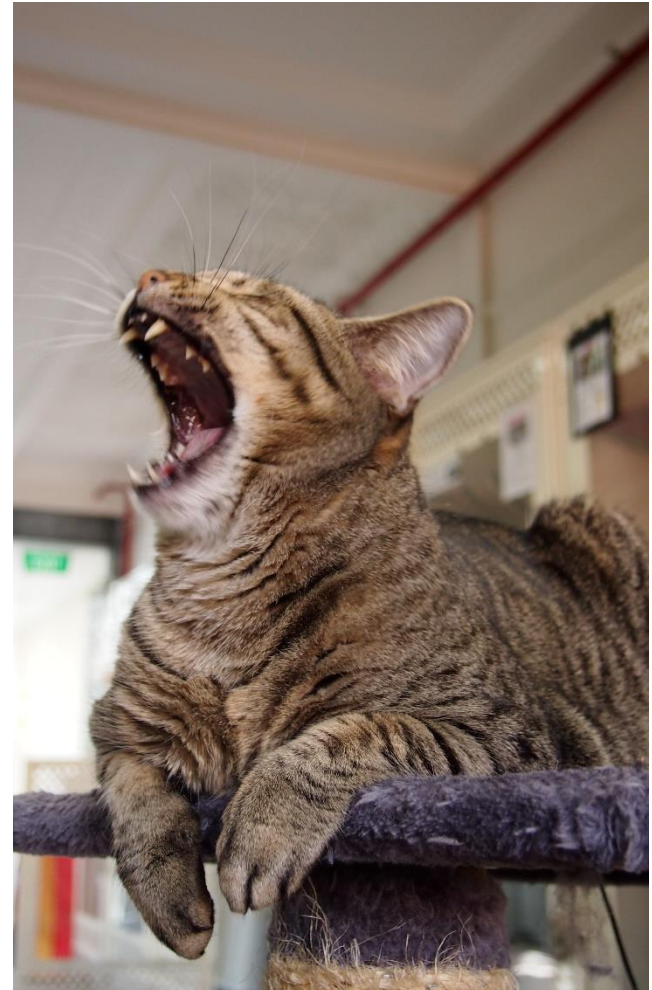
Rijnbeek GR, et al. Evaluation of a nine-point body condition scoring system in physically inactive pet cats. *AJVR* 2011;72:433-437.
Lehmann DP. Development and validation of a body condition score system for cats: A clinical tool. *Feline Pract* 1997;25:13-16.

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Breathing

- Quiet
- No open mouth breathing
- No rattles or chest sounds
- Relevant to exercise level

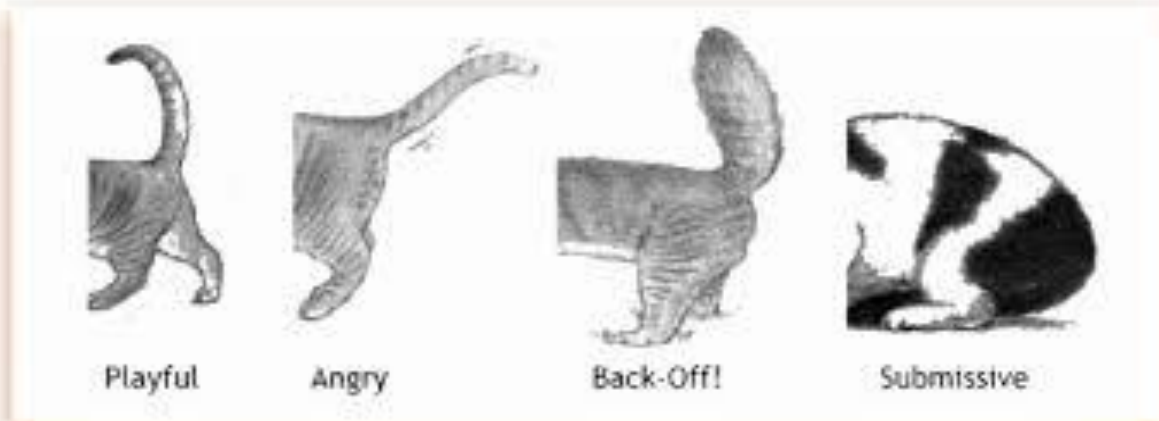
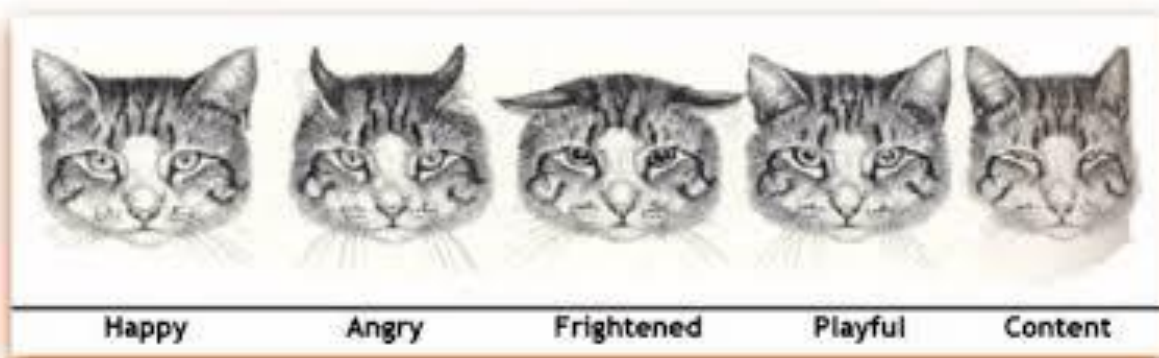


Appetite and water intake



- Eat most of food
- Drinking in relation to diet
- Well hydrated – tent test on skin

Body Language



Toileting

- No blood in urine or faeces
- Solid faeces
- No straining when toileting
- No worms in faeces
- Monitor food intake and ensure feeding age specific food
- Avoid over feeding to prevent toileting issues
- Ensure litter trays are easy access, the right size and CLEAN



Grade 1

Hard dry and crumbly; 'Bullet-like'

**Grade 1.5**

Hard and dry

**Grade 2**

Well formed; does not leave a mark when picked up; 'kickable'

**Grade 2.5**

Well formed, with a slightly moist surface, which leaves a mark when picked up; almost sticky to touch

**Grade 3**

Moist beginning to lose form, leaving a definite mark when picked up

**Grade 3.5**

Very moist, but still has some definite form

**Grade 4**

The majority, if not all the form is lost; poor consistency; viscous

**Grade 4.5**

Diarrhoea, with some areas of consistency

**Grade 5**

Watery diarrhoea

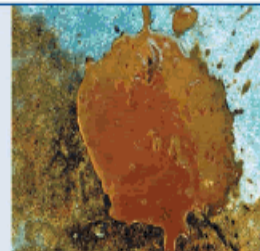


Figure 1 Faeces texture scoring (faecal score).

Ringworm

- A fungal infection, similar to athletes foot in humans
- Zoonotic (can be transmitted to humans and some other animals)
- Transmitted by hair and skin contaminated with fungal spores (that you can't see)
- Always get vet check to confirm ringworm as other conditions can present in a very similar way (allergies, overgrooming)
- Prevention: regular vacuuming, separating new arrivals, sunlight for drying bedding, washing and sanitising of hands, regular washing of bedding, brushing and removal of excess hair, avoid mixing cats and litters of kittens until sure of health status, use Canesten in wash
- Can live in soil for up to 5 years!

Signs:

- hair loss usually in a circular shape (hence the name) but NOT always!





cat protection society
OF NSW



Treatment

- Separate cat from others (as long as not causing too much stress on the cat)
- Wash bedding and your clothing in Canesten
- Topical; washes like Malaseb and Imaverol or creams like Lamisil and Fungafite
- and/or oral (tablets daily)
- Doesn't have to be expensive, speak to your vet about bulk buying
- Avoid clipping as this can spread spores
- Self limiting; ringworm will heal itself after 3-5 months
- Avoid google remedies!

