



MEOW!

Cat Language

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Animals rely mostly on body language to communicate, but cats have a varied vocabulary to utilize as well. Some cats are chattier than others. Some cats like to talk when they're happy, others only in distress. One of my cats will have a full-on conversation with me while I prepare breakfast; another will scream at me when it's time to go to bed. Every cat has their own traits/personalities. Let's break down what some of these noises mean:

Meow: This is the most typical sound associated with a cat. Used mostly to communicate to their human that they want food, play, or attention. Some cats just want to make sure you don't forget that it's time for dinner!

Yowl/Howl: Low bellowing sound, sometimes a higher tone with long cries. This can be a sign of distress, confusion or pain. This can also be used after a cat catches their toy and yowls to be recognized for their hunting efforts. Intact females will yowl to attract a potential mate. It's important to make sure your cat isn't yowling in pain, as this can warrant a rapid vet visit, especially if it's coming from the litterbox!

Chirps: High pitch, short chirps. This is sometimes heard when they're excited or they are alerting to some kind of prey out the window like a mouse or a bird. It's also just cute.

Moan/Growl: Low tones and cries. This can indicate pain and/or stress or possible anxieties within the household. It's important to pay attention when this is happening. Are they in a stressful situation? Is there another cat upsetting them? If they are doing this while using the litterbox, there might be a concern.

Hiss: Think classic angry kitty. While this is mostly used to say "BACK OFF," sometimes it can just be a fear response from new introductions, transitions, or trips to the vet.

Scream: This sound is usually high-pitched and distressing to them and hurtful to our ears. This can indicate pain or occasionally the over-dramatic cat that doesn't like what is happening to them. Again, it's important to evaluate what is happening at the time of the screaming.

Purr: Purr, purr, love that little cat motor. This is very calming and soothing to cats. Sometimes it means they are so comfortable and serene and they just can't hold it in. Some cats will purr because they are anxious and trying to self-soothe. Either way it's adorable and my favorite soundtrack.



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