

### *Relaxed Posture*

- Whiskers held straight out to the sides
- May purr
- Eyes open, pupils not dilated
- Ears straight up and relaxed
- Tail high and quivering
- Body has soft muscle tone
- Push object with head

### *Alert Posture*

- Eyes open wide, alert eye contact
- Ears forward, may move back and forth
- Mouth closed
- Tail pointing away from cat yet almost horizontal, not bristled
- Leans body slightly forward
- Stands tall on toes

### *Playful Posture*

- Makes eye contact
- Ears up or forward
- Whiskers forward
- Alert facial expression
- Extends and swats with front paws
- Claws may be exposed
- Lies on back
- Hind legs extended
- Tail twitches or wags

### *Submissive Posture*

- Avoids eye contact
- Ears back
- Crouched passively
- Belly low to ground
- Tail tucked between legs
- May lie on their back with belly up

## *Fearful Posture*

- Whiskers flattened back against face
- Eyes wide open, pupils completely dilated
- Ears flattened back against head
- Head pulled back
- Often hisses or spits
- Back arched
- Tail vertical
- Hair stands on end on body and tail  
(Halloween-cat appearance)

## *Defensive Threat Posture*

- Very similar to fearful cat posture
- Whiskers flattened back against face
- Eyes wide open, pupils dilated
- Ears flat back
- Often growls or hisses
- Faces enemy sideways
- Crouched down so body is parallel to floor
- Tail vertical and stiff
- Hair stands on end on body and tail
- If cornered, may roll over to prepare counter-attack with teeth and all four feet

## *Offensive Threat or Aggressive Posture*

- Whiskers spread out and thrust forward
- Eyes narrow and pupils constricted
- May stare at potential victim
- Ears up and turned straight back
- Head forward
- Mouth may open, baring teeth
- May growl or hiss
- Faces enemy head on
- Hair on back may stand up
- Tail straight out away from body with tip turned down
- Tail may be vertical with rear end raised
- Will twitch or lash tail back and forth