



Cat Personality

Test results for Mac

Not only is cat personality fascinating, it's of importance to cat owners and of great interest to researchers. At Discovery Circle, Australia they've extensively explored cat personality as part of their Cat Tracker project. We use their report here, which includes their findings, as well as the results of your cat's personality test.

The Small Cat Project: www.themallcatproject.com

Background

Researchers in the UK and USA (Gartner, Powell and Weiss) have developed a personality questionnaire for cats and used it with captive wildcats and with domestic cats in shelters. The questionnaire includes 52 personality characteristics and was based on personality research on numerous other animals. As part of the Cat Tracker project run in Australia, they analysed pet personality like never before! The information in this report is available due to researchers at Discovery Circle

The Feline Five

Their analyses of 2,802 cat personality tests indicate a set of five personality factors that capture the majority of these cats' personality characteristics. Each factor reflects numerous related personality characteristics. We have called these factors the **Feline Five**, listed here with some examples of the characteristics they reflect:

1. Skittishness

HIGH SCORES = *anxious, fearful of people and cats*

LOW SCORES = *calm, trusting*

2. Outgoingness

HIGH SCORES = *curious, active*

LOW SCORES = *aimless, quitting*

3. Dominance

HIGH SCORES = *bullying, aggressive to other cats*

LOW SCORES = *submissive, friendly to other cats*

4. Spontaneity

HIGH SCORES = *impulsive, erratic*

LOW SCORES = *predictable, constrained*

5. Friendliness

HIGH SCORES = *affectionate, friendly to people*

LOW SCORES = *solitary, irritable*

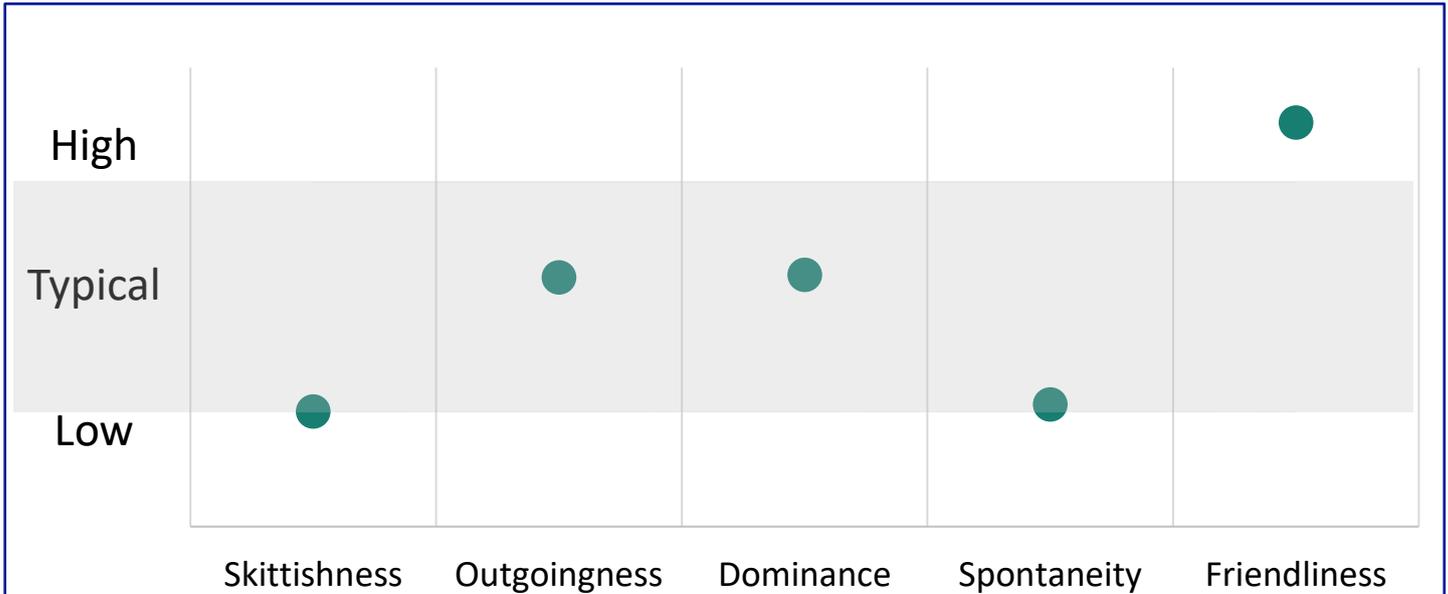
How it works

Based on your responses to the Cat Personality Test, your cat has been scored on each **Feline Five** factor. For each factor, most cats score somewhere in the middle (called 'typical'), and some cats score higher or lower. You would expect a cat that scores highly on a particular factor to demonstrate related characteristics very frequently. Your cat's results are presented on a graph. On the graph, the area shaded in grey is the 'typical' zone. Points above the typical zone are high, and points below the typical zone are low.

An interesting finding...

Researchers found that the personalities of indoor and outdoor cats were very similar. In fact, the only significant difference they found was that the indoor cats we assessed tended to be slightly more *friendly*. This could be good news for people who keep their cats indoors, suggesting that there is no negative impact on the personality of a cat when it is kept indoors! However, more research is required in this area, see: <http://j.mp/cat-personality>

Personality test results for Mac*



*Please note: if this cat is under one-year of age their personality may still be developing.

What it means for you

Your cat's personality test results may be useful in making decisions about your cat. Below are some examples for each of the **Feline Five** personality factors.

PLEASE NOTE: these are general examples and are not specific to your cat and your home. If you are concerned about your cat, we recommend you seek professional advice from your vet or an animal behaviour specialist.

1. Skittishness

- Cats with high scores may benefit from having hiding spots at home. You could also consider whether there could be something in your cat's environment that is stressing your cat.
- Low scores may reflect that your cat is well adjusted to its environment.

2. Outgoingness

- Cats with high scores may benefit from additional toys and play time.
- Cats with low scores are uncommon, but may be showing signs of ageing or related health issues.

3. Dominance

- Cats with high scores may experience difficulties being around other cats, both in your home and in your neighbourhood.
- Cats with low scores may adjust well to being in multi-cat households.

4. Spontaneity

- For cats with high scores, consider whether your cat could be reacting to something stressful in its environment.
- Cats with low scores may reflect that they are well adjusted to their environment, and may enjoy routine.

5. Friendliness

- Cats with high scores may adjust well to other people and animals in the home.
- Cats with low scores may have a solitary nature or they may be poorly socialised. If unfriendly behaviour is unusual for your cat it may indicate frustration, pain or illness.

The content of this report is courtesy of Discovery Circle:
www.discoverycircle.org.au

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