

Why do cats purr?

Cats purr for the same reason that humans sigh, smile and sing. It's a communication tool that means different things at different times.

A cat's purr can be broken down into three separate categories: the happy purr, the friendly purr and the reassuring purr.

The happy purr is the most popular purr. When you scratch a cat behind the ears, the purr signals the cat's own comfort and enjoyment. The friendly purr often happens when a cat is

approached by a human he likes or another cat. This second type of purr simply communicates that the cat welcomes the visitor. Lastly, cats use the reassuring purr when they are afraid. Scientists believe that purring calms the cat, in the same way humans sometimes sing when they're nervous to make them feel better.



Identification:

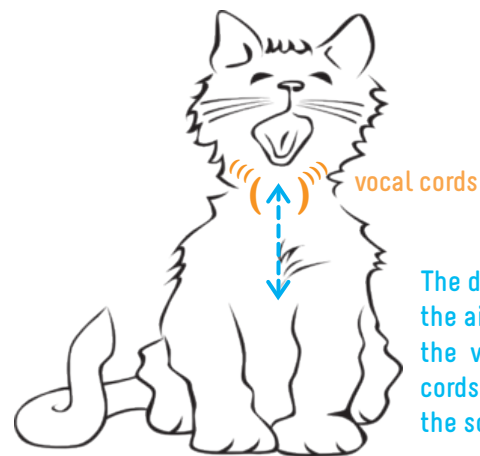


Based on the reading, identify what type of purr cats make in these situations:

- a cat being scratched
- two cats walking towards each other
- a cat at a vet
- when a cat gets a treat
- a mother cat giving birth
- when approached by a stranger

Mechanics behind a purr:

Purrs involve various muscles in a cat's body. The larynx, or voice box, and diaphragm play key roles in the mechanics of purring.



The diaphragm moves the air in and out of the vibrating vocal cords which causes the sound.