

Cat Stress Score

(From Kassler & Turner 1997)

i: (or unspecified) = cat is inactive, a: = cat is active]

Score	Body	Stomach	Legs	Tail	Head	Eyes	Pupils	Ears	Whiskers	Vocal	Activity
1. Fully Relaxed	Laid out on side or on back	Exposed, slow ventilation	Fully extended	Extended or loosely wrapped	Laid on surface with chin up or on surface	Closed or half opened, may be blinking slowly	Normal	Half-back (normal)	Lateral (normal)	None	Sleeping or resting
2. Weakly Relaxed	i: laid ventrally or half on side or sitting a: standing or moving, back horizontal	Exposed or not, slow or normal ventilation	i: bent, hind legs may be laid out A: when standing, extended	i: extended or loosely wrapped a: up or loosely downwards	Laid on surface or over the body, some movement	Closed, half opened or normal opened	Normal	Half-back or erected to front or back and forward on head	Lateral or forward	None	Sleeping, resting, alert or active, may be playing
3. Weakly Tense	i: laid ventrally or sitting a: standing or moving, body behind lower than in front	Not exposed, normal ventilation	i: bent a: when standing, extended	May be twitching i: on the body or curved backwards a: up or tense downwards	Over the body, some movement	Normal opened	Normal	Half-back or erected to front or back and forward on head	Lateral or forward	Meow or quiet	Resting awake or actively exploring
4. Very Tense	i: laid ventral, rolled or sitting a: standing or moving, body behind lower than in front	Not exposed, normal ventilation	i: bent a: when standing, hind legs bent in front extended	i: close to the body a: tense downwards or curled forward, may be twitching	Over the body or pressed to body, little or no movement	Widely open or pressed together	Normal or partially dilated	Erected to front or back, or back and forward on head	Lateral or forward	Meow, plaintive meow or quiet	Cramped sleeping, resting or alert may be actively exploring, trying to escape
5. Fearful, Stiff	i: laid ventrally or sitting a: standing or moving, body behind lower than in front	Not exposed, normal or fast ventilation	i: bent a: bent near to surface	i: close to the body a: curled forward close to the body	On the plane of the body, less or no movement	Widely opened	Dilated	Partially flattened	Lateral or forward or back	Plaintive meow, yowling, growling or quiet	Alert, may be actively trying to escape
6. Very Fearful	i: laid ventrally or crouched directly on top of all paws, may be shaking a: whole body near to ground, crawling, may be shaking	Not exposed, fast ventilation	i: bent a: bent near to surface	i: close to the body a: curled forward close to the body	Near to surface, motionless	Fully opened	Fully dilated	Fully flattened	Back	Plaintive meow, yowling, growling or quiet	Motionless, alert or actively prowling
7. Terrified	Crouched directly on top of all fours, shaking	Not exposed, fast ventilation	Bent	Close to the body	Lower than the body, motionless	Fully opened	Fully dilated	Fully flattened back on head	Back	Plaintive meow, yowling, growling or quiet	Motionless