



Catwatching: The Essential Guide To Cat Behaviour

Desmond Morris

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The personality of the cat is a fascinating mixture of affection, domesticity and active independence. You may think you know your cat as he purrs in your lap, but come across your pet in the street on a dark night and you might think that Bagpuss suffers from a dual personality.

Every single feline pet carries an inheritance of amazing sensory capacities, vocal utterances, body language and territorial displays. By answering such questions as 'what does a cat signal with its ears? 'why does a cat rub up against your leg?' and 'why does a cat swing its head from side to side when staring at its prey?', Desmond Morris decodes the private world of the cat.

Your cat is full of surprises and our finest zoologist is about to reveal their secrets in this beautifully repackaged edition of a much loved bestseller.

Catwatching: The Essential Guide To Cat Behaviour Details

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Author : Desmond Morris

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Sarah Sammis says

It was a good introduction to cats but as a long time cat lover most of the facts in the book I already knew. I had hoped for something a little more academic or something that went into greater depth on the social interactions of those colonies of semi-feral cats. I know Morris has taken part in those studies but Catwatching doesn't touch on it (except briefly in the introduction). The illustrations though are wonderful.

Claudio Valverde says

Coincido con maragota21 Es interesante, fácil de leer, pero quizás tenía más expectativas ya que Desmond Morris ha sido una eminencia en lo que se refiere a comportamiento tanto animal como humano. De todos modos no está mal.

Robin says

Some of the author's explanations for feline behavior appear to be based on conjecture, but who better to speculate than one who has spent time working with and observing wild cats in a zoo setting? This book helped me respect the cat's remarkable instincts and adaptability and to understand how my interactions w/ kitty while well-intentioned are more based on my own needs than hers. The book's question and answer format is accompanied by simple sketches that convey character and speak to the distinguished bearing of its subject. Its effects whet the reader's appetite for further education of the animal world and of nature in general.

Jack Oughton says

A short and surprisingly entertaining read.

Though I do not have a cat, I now know things about cats that I never once knew that I would know :3

SoManyBooks SoLittleTime says

After dipping in a couple of times my eyes were tired from rolling - SO anachronistic (scientists cannot allow possibility of animals experiencing feelings or reason), dripping in condescension (for cats and the reader), and far too smugly self-amused (bad jokes).

However, I read the whole thing, and while all of the above is also true, I did learn a couple of things (Hairless Sphynx cats are from CANADA? wtf?! What kind of maladapted accident is THAT?), and there were a few cat funnies too that made me laugh.

There's better cat books out there. This is a time capsule, and/or D. Morris cranking out another book to capitalize on his fifteen of fame

Dustin Reade says

i am not joking when i tell you this was one of the most interesting, fun, and compulsively readable books i have ever purchased on a whim from Goodwill.

packed with information, observations, and strange little asides, i completely devoured this book. no joke. dead serious. i know you probably think this is one of those fake reviews people do like where they go on Amazon and claim a gallon of milk saved their marriage, but no. i am totally serious. this book was weirdly awesome.

Dustin J Allen says

If you dig cats... I own this if you wanna borrow it! In some ways it's an 11/10

P?nar Aydo?du says

Kedilerinizin anlam veremedi?iniz davranış?lar?n? aç?kl??a kavu?turmak ve kedi aleminin mucizelerini ö?renmek için bu kitab? mutlaka okumal?s?n?z.

havucumuyedim says

Kedilerden nefret ederim ben köpek severim kediler nankör pislikler kediler ?öyle kediler böyle diyenler ?u kitab? okusalar eminim ki ellerine al?p bu zırzoplar? sevmeseler bile dünyan?n en asil en ak?ll? hayvan? olan kediye saygı? duru?unda bulunurlar. Ama i?te ne yaz?k ki ön yarg? ve kal?pla?m?? fikirler her konuda oldu?u gibi bunda da insana hiç tatmad??? güzellikleri kaybettiriyor. Muazzam güzel bilgilerin insan? okurken gülümsetti?i, hayranl?k uyand?rd??? nefis bir mini ansiklopedi kitap adeta...

P.s: ?ki köpekle büyüp son on y?l?n? üç kedi ile geçiren biri olarak söyleyebilirim ki köpek seven insan kedi de sevebilir. ?ok olunas? bir durum de?il yani.

Averil says

Brilliant

IrgendwasmitFaber says

Ich hätte gerne die Vorzüge dieses Buches gelobt, die dank der Beobachtungsgabe und der empirischen Denkweise des Autors durchaus zu finden sind. Gerne hätte ich meine Kritik darauf beschränkt, das der Autor die notwendige Bekämpfung von Mythen und Aberglauben rund um Katzen in diesem Buch manchmal etwas zu dogmatisch nimmt, z.B. wenn Feuer mit Feuer bekämpft und einem Vorurteil eine (meines Empfindens nach) schwach-populärwissenschaftliche These entgegengestellt wird (z.B. "Kleine Katzenspezies X wurde 1971 in den USA entdeckt, weil dortige Teenager dazu neigten in kleine Apartmentwohnungen zu ziehen.").

Manchmal liest es sich auch heraus, wie der Autor versucht, dem exklusiven Kreis der Katzenzüchter zu gefallen, z.B. wenn alle Katzenschauen vor einer bestimmten Show in London 1871 ohne Angabe weiterer Gründe als nebensächlich abgetan werden, bis erwähnt wird das ein bestimmter renommierter vom Autor offensichtlich respektierter Zuchtverband die Londoner Shows veranstaltet. Bis dahin dennoch ein sehr gutes Buch(5/5), manchmal etwas anstrengend aber nicht gefährlich - und von weiteren Kleinigkeiten, z.B. das die Maßeinheiten für die deutsche Ausgabe des Heyne Verlages nicht umgerechnet wurden (wtf sind 27 Pfund?!)(4/5) hätte sich die Lektüre lohnen können, wäre da nicht...

mein krasser Kritikpunkt: Desmond Morris befürwortet die genetische Herstellung von "Designerkatzen" in New York, die in allen Merkmalen den Wünschen ihrer Kunden entsprechen und Preise von ca 1800\$ erzielen. Desweiteren führt er alle Kritik an dieser Katzenproduktion dem Neid der Besitzlosen zu.

Ich kontere das mit einer ähnlich zugespitzten Aussage:" Tiere auf diese Art in Labors zu produzieren ist eine Form von Faschismus, die jedes Recht dieser Lebewesen auf ein natürliches Leben mit Füßen tritt. Hätte man Animal Farm gelesen wüsste man sowas."

Insofern ist das Buch eher was für gleichmütige Zuchtkatzenliebhaber als für aufgeklärte Katzenbesitzer. knappe (2/5)

Andriy Zinchuk says

THis short book finally brought some peace to my chaotic household. We had two young cats (brothers) who, while lovable and entertaining, were completely out of control and not responding to any of the behavior modification tips I usually used with cats. After being disappointed by at least 5 other cat behavior books, I was skeptical about this one.

Catwatching helped me understand that cats respond to positive reinforcement, punishment will only make them neurotic. Catch them doing the right thing and praise, praise, praise! i.e.: anytime he uses the scratching post I say "Good kitty!" and use his name- they quickly learned that good things happen at the scratching post and use it more often. When they're climbing the curtains, distract them with a toy rather than punishing. You'll get farther. Don't use a treat, that's rewarding bad behavior.

I also learned cat body language that was very helpful, such as blowing a quick breath of air into the face of a cat who has gone crazy on your hand/feet/etc. Stops them immediately. Putting a few fingers not their forehead and pushing lightly says "enough of that".

Following Morris' lead, I watched how they communicated with each other and followed suit. They were still

hyperactive acrobats until they were for years old (and we had to cat-proof much of the house), but this book helped me immensely. Only one I found that has.
I recommend it without reservation!

ZouZou says

??

Street Sharks says

trying to get in these mother fuckers' heads YA HEARD?

Barbara says

As a cat lover and owner, I have several books in my library devoted to either the care of these enigmatic animals, or to their history and distributions in the world. Desmond Morris is a noted anthropologist, who has penned this neat little book devoted to the life and behaviors of the domesticated cat. He has answered many questions which are common and some one may not have thought about.

For example: Why does a cat trample on your lap with its front paws?

Why does a cat wag its tail?

Why does a cat roll over to lie on its back when greeting you?

Why does a cat chatter its teeth when it sees a bird through a window?

Why do we say "He let the cat out of the bag!"?

And More...

For the answers to these questions do read this book!
