

1 Whiskers aren't just on the face

As well as the whiskers either side of their nose, cats can also grow them above their eyes, in their ears, around their jaw and on their front legs.

2 They sense vibrations

A cat's whiskers are very sensitive and can detect subtle movements in the air. This is very useful for locating their prey while hunting, or sensing that the food cupboard has been opened!

3 Whiskers are used to communicate

The position of your cat's whiskers can tell you how they're feeling. If they're pinned back against their face then your cat may be scared, but if they're pointing forwards then they could be curious or excited.

4 They help them fit through small spaces

Before squeezing through small gaps, cats will poke their head in first and use their whiskers to measure the size of the hole. If their whiskers fit, then they know their whole body can get through.

5 There's always an even number

Most cats have 24 whiskers in total, with 12 on each cheek. They're arranged symmetrically to help them measure distances and the location of nearby movement accurately.

5 facts about whiskers

