

Cats Are Cats!™

Your cat has more in common with a big cat than you may realize. The only real difference between your tabby and a tiger is size. All cats are highly evolved meat-eating predators, depending upon intelligence, stealth and speed to catch other animals for their food. Sharing our lives with small felines and bringing them into our homes has not changed their basic nature or physiology. In truth, our feline companions are not domesticated, they are just tame.

Social animals.

Companion cats are social by nature, not unlike lions. As long as there is adequate food available so they don't have to compete just to survive, small cats will form strong social bonds. Exposed to humans at the right age, small cats learn to include us in their social structure. Although you may not see it this way, from your cat's perspective, you are a member of the pride.

Hunters at heart.

Just like a big cat, your cat has strong hunting instincts. Your cat's play behavior is basically hunting behavior. Chasing, stalking, ambushing and pouncing are all practice for the hunt. Cats of every size depend upon perfecting these skills to survive. Just like a tiger, your cat can go from patient waiting to lightning-fast action in an instant.



Your cat's play behavior is practice for the hunt.

In for the kill.

All cats, big or little, are obligate carnivores. This means that they are in a special class of animals that require a diet of the flesh of other animals. Small cats have the same basic nutritional requirements as big cats. It is only the size of their prey that differs. Both evolved as predators, completely adapted to a raw meat diet. Whether the cats are big or small, they don't eat foods based on vegetables or grain. Cats are not cows.

The teeth will tell.

Take a good look at your cat's mouth. Just as in a big cat, these are the jaws and teeth of an animal designed to eat a prey-based diet. Large incisors to capture, hold and kill prey. Shearing teeth on the sides of the jaw to cut through skin, meat and bone. Cats don't chew the way animals that eat plants do. Their jaws can't move side to side, and they don't have flat molars to grind food.



Little cat or big cat, these are the teeth and jaws of a predator.

They use their side teeth only to cut food into pieces small enough to swallow.

A day in the life.

Watch a lion or a tiger for a day and you will be struck by how familiar it all is. Lots of sleeping, grooming and playing, just like your tabby. Big cats purr just like yours. They roll around and are goofy if given catnip. They sharpen their claws on trees. They stalk and pounce and play just like a little cat. Or is it the other way around? When it comes to behavior, physiology and most especially diet, your cat is a tiny tiger.

Get the details.

For more information, visit [Feline Nutrition](#). If you are new to feeding a raw meat diet or have been using raw diets for years, we have a wealth of science-backed information on feline health and nutrition. To join the discussion, find us at Feline Nutrition on [Facebook](#).

Join us in helping cats to better health.

Membership in Feline Nutrition is free. Learn how you can be a part of changing how cats are fed.

For complete information, visit

FelineNutritionFoundation.org



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Big cat, little cat:

- Adapted to a raw, prey-based diet
- Get most of their fluids from their food
- Limited ability to digest carbohydrates
- Teeth and jaws designed to eat flesh
- Social animals
- Play behavior sharpens hunting skills
- Camouflage coats
- Excellent low-light vision for hunting
- Superb sense of smell



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