How Cats Became our Friends

Check out how cats became our favorite little murder machines.
To learn how dogs and humans got together, watch the companion video over at It's OK To Be Smart: https://youtu.be/tggdERc8E6Y - be sure to subscribe while you're there!

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DESCRIPTION

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PusheenCat491
Added 2 years ago
Pusheen And The Nyan cat
Cats rival dogs on many tests of social smarts. But is anyone brave enough to study them?
A friendly, confident cat will approach with tail held high, also. This cat is saying “Hey, let’s be friends.” Consider the situation when the confident, friendly cat marches up to the easygoing or submissive dog, tail flying high, head in the air, and with a confident step. The dog, not wanting any trouble, offers a polite greeting or backs off to see what the cat wants to do next. This type of cat will make friends easily with most dogs, because dogs misinterpret the friendly tail flag and are careful not to cause offense on the first meeting. We have a dog-loving cat that uses this technique with any and all dogs. A visit from our neighbor’s Great Dane was cut short when the cat marched up to say hello and the very timid neighbor-dog ran home at top speed with her tail between her legs. We may be obsessed with our feline friends, but a new book suggests they don’t really get us like dogs do. [Later] I very quickly became fascinated with cats, and what their idea of the world is compared to the one we have. What do you do in your research? A lot of observation—watching groups of cats to see how they interact with one another and deducing their social structure. I watch cats in colonies that are free-ranging, and in animal shelters where quite a number will be housed together—you get interesting dynamics [when new cats are introduced]. Cats learn specifically how their owners react when they make particular noises. So if the cat thinks, ‘I want to get my owner from the other room,’ it works to vocalize. They use straightforward learning.