

## Feline ladder of aggression - progression of body language signs in response to perceived threat

- ↑ multiple bites - grabbing with claws
- ↑ Bite
- ↑ Swat
- ↑ Stare
- ↑ Ears turned back
- ↑ Hiding
- ↑ whole body hunched down , head down
- ↑ Holding still, sitting still or grooming area touched)
- ↑ Hair slightly raised over the back
- ↑ Pupils dilated
- ↑ Ear flicking
- ↑ Laying on sternum with legs tucked under body

These signs are common in examinations, shelter settings or where the cat cannot find a way to escape. A cat can progress as fast as .1 second through each step. Some cats will skip steps or suppress the body language as they escalate.