

What's Your Deaf-Cat IQ?

Test your knowledge about the needs of these special kitties.

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Owners of deaf cats need to put in a little extra time and provide some special care for their feline companions. Take this quiz to find out how much you know about deaf cats, and the simple ways that help you and kitty adjust to the handicap.

1. When approaching a deaf cat, you should:
 - a. Sneak up behind her
 - b. Pat her lightly
 - c. Approach her from the front
 - d. Run toward her
2. Cats most prone to deafness are:
 - a. Tabbies with green eyes
 - b. Black and white with yellow eyes
 - c. Persians with blue eyes
 - d. White with blue eyes
3. The best way to keep track of a deaf cat is by:
 - a. Keeping her on a leash
 - b. Confining her to one room
 - c. Putting a bell on her collar
 - d. Following her wherever she goes
4. The most effective way to train a deaf cat is by using:
 - a. Toys
 - b. Affection
 - c. Treats
 - d. Anger
5. When playing with a deaf cat, the best toys are:
 - a. Feathers
 - b. Laser pointers
 - c. String
 - d. Balls
6. Deaf cats use which one of their senses the most?
 - a. Smell
 - b. Taste
 - c. Touch
 - d. Sight
7. What type of test would have to be conducted to see whether a cat is deaf or not?
 - a. FIV
 - b. ELISA test
 - c. BAER test
 - d. FeLV
8. When introducing a deaf cat to children you should:
 - a. Allow the children to grab the cat roughly
 - b. Inform the children of the cat's situation
 - c. Leave the children alone with the cat
 - d. Let the children tease the cat

9. A deaf cat that is suddenly awakened may:
 - a. Purr
 - b. Lick your hand
 - c. Meow
 - d. Bite or hiss
10. Cats who are deaf:
 - a. Should be put to sleep
 - b. Lead miserable lives
 - c. Can lead happy, healthy, normal lives
 - d. Are mistreated
11. The best way to awaken a deaf cat that is sleeping is by:
 - a. Tapping a wall or stomping your feet
 - b. Petting her
 - c. Blowing on her fur
 - d. Picking her up
12. When interacting with other animals, a deaf cat should:
 - a. Be left unsupervised
 - b. Not be allowed to interact with other animals
 - c. Be supervised
 - d. Interact only with other cats
13. A deaf cat should:
 - a. Be allowed to live outdoors
 - b. Be kept indoors at all times
 - c. Be confined to one room
 - d. Be allowed to roam wherever they please
14. What emotion is often mistaken for aggression in deaf cats?
 - a. Fear
 - b. Jealousy
 - c. Stress
 - d. Guilt
15. Training a deaf cat is:
 - a. Impossible
 - b. Difficult
 - c. Possible depending on the circumstances
 - d. Simple with a little dedication and repetition
16. Separation anxiety is higher in deaf cats.
 - a. Maybe
 - b. It depends on the cat
 - c. Not at all
 - d. Absolutely
17. Informal sign language:
 - a. Can be learned by deaf cats
 - b. Is only useful to deaf humans
 - c. Can't be learned by deaf cats
 - d. Doesn't work for cats
18. Working with a deaf cat is:
 - a. Easy
 - b. Challenging
 - c. In-between
 - d. Hard

19. Deafness:
- a. Only occurs in white cats with blue eyes
 - b. Can happen to any cat at any age
 - c. Is caused by old age
 - d. Only occurs in female cats
20. Deaf cats are:
- a. Louder than hearing cats
 - b. Quieter than hearing cats
 - c. Completely silent
 - d. More talkative than hearing cats

Answer Key

- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. C
- 4. C
- 5. B
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. B
- 9. D
- 10. C
- 11. A
- 12. C
- 13. B
- 14. A
- 15. D
- 16. C
- 17. A
- 18. B
- 19. B
- 20. A

If you scored:

1-5 Points - Good job. Keep on studying. Don't despair, simply pick up a few books and fill your mind with every deaf-cat fact you can find!

5-10 Points - Congrats! You're almost there!

11-15 Points - Give yourself a pat on the back – You're on your way to becoming a deaf-cat expert.

16-20 Points - You're the cats meow! There's no question about it, when it comes to deaf cats, you know it all!

Erika Sorocco is a freelance writer living in Southern California . Her work has appeared in numerous publications both nationally and internationally.