

## Cat Personalities Get Into Shape

**Trainer explains her theory that body shapes can size up a cats tendencies.**

Can a round cat fit into a square personality?

Not likely, according to cat behaviorist and trainer Kit Jenkins, who has developed a theory about cat personalities that identifies them by the shape of each cats body round, square or triangle.

By identifying a cat with one of those three shapes, Jenkins says pet owners could theoretically predict whether a cat is reserved, friendly or energetic. The knowledge could be useful when prospective owners are selecting a cat to best fit in their home.

This is absolutely a theory, said Jenkins, stressing that there is no scientific evidence to prove it, and not every cat can be categorized. Its more fun than anything else.

But it is also eerily true much of the time. After hearing about it, many people who have spoken with Jenkins eagerly return home to examine their own pets, and find that the precept makes sense.

Circle cats are the quiet ones, spending most of the day sleeping in a comfortable place or hiding, depending on their mood. They are generally mellow and have a low energy level, leading Jenkins to call them throw pillows with legs. These cats are identifiable because most of their body seems round: their heads, faces, ears, tails and legs all seem to have curves, and they are usually long-haired. Persians and Exotic Shorthairs are the best examples.

Square cats are most likely to think they are dogs. These cats are social with anyone people or other pets and enjoy showing their affection by playing, touching, and adding their own commentary to conversation and activities. A square cat will seem very blocky, with squared-off faces, noses and ears, and are often large. Maine Coons and American Shorthairs are included in this category.

Triangle cats are the wild and curious ones, investigating everything and getting themselves into the strangest places. They are very active and can seem to dominate any other animal in a household. Triangle cats will look very angular, and the bodies, tails and legs can seem stretched out of proportion. Siamese and Oriental Shorthairs are triangle cats.

Jenkins formulated her theory through 20 years of experience working in shelters, observing over 500,000 mixed-breed and purebred cats. She often teaches it at workshops for cat enthusiasts, and is planning to do so at several national conferences this year.

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