



5 Things Your Pet Is Trying To Tell You



1. Sniffy walks are important to me!! Yes, it's great to run and explore, but I also love to stop, take my time and have a good sniff. Please let me do that!
2. I love to try new routes. Walking the same walk every day can get kind of boring. Can we mix it up and explore some new places together?
3. I get a bit worried by lots of direct eye contact. I know it's normal for humans, but in our dog world, if another dog stares at me, it can be threatening.
4. I don't like it when someone goes straight in to pat me on the head - it's a bit scary! Would you like it if someone came up to you and suddenly tried to pat your face? I prefer to be stroked on my back, chest or side, and sometimes a scratch behind the ears. If you stop fussing me and I shove my head under your hand, that means I'm relaxed and don't mind a little head fuss.
5. I don't always like full on hugs. Sometimes it's a bit much. If that's how I feel, I'll tell you by turning my face away or licking my lips.

Dogs

1. I love to be up high! It makes me feel safe and secure, and I can look down on my cat kingdom. If you can, please could you give me some places where it's safe to climb?
2. Just like my canine chums, I'm not too keen on direct eye contact. If another cat stares at me, it's usually a sign they're spoiling for a fight. When I'm really happy and relaxed, I'll do a slow blink which is my way of saying 'I love you' - can you try doing that back to me, and say you love me too?
3. When I'm rubbing my face around your legs when you get home from school, I'm so happy to see you - oh, and I'm telling the world you're mine, by the way. I'm covering you in special feline pheromones that other cats can smell, so they know you belong to me!
4. If you're going to play a laser pointer game with me, can you give me something to 'catch' at the end? I love to run and pounce after something - it's in my nature after all - but it's frustrating when there's nothing for me to catch after all that work!
5. I'm not always a fan of cuddles - mostly, I like them to be on my terms! So if I come to you wanting a cuddle and a fuss, that's what I want. I'm a cat, after all, which means I'm usually the boss of the house!

Cats