

Exploring Cat Myths

Have you heard these common myths about cats?

Cats always land on their feet. Not true, unfortunately. Cats do have the ability to twist their bodies in mid-air to land on their feet if they have enough time. If they fall from short distances, there's no time to change position. When cats fall from a distance higher than two stories, even if they manage to land on their feet, they often suffer serious injuries due to the impact of the fall.

Cats suck the breath out of babies. You must find a new home for your cat if you have a baby. This old wives' tale just won't fade away into oblivion, despite no documented evidence of this ever happening.

While this particular story is a myth, it *is* a good idea to keep cats away from sleeping babies. Cats enjoy snuggling up to a warm body, no matter how young or old. A young baby is not strong enough to move its head and could suffocate if its nose is pressed up against a sleeping cat.

Also, crying or sudden movements could startle a cat sleeping next to a baby and cause the cat to scratch the baby. Many cats enjoy the company of children and are affectionate companions, but it's best to keep them out of cribs. Installing a mesh crib tent is a good way to keep your cat out of the crib. You'll be able to see and hear your baby, but your cat won't be able to jump into the crib.

Purring means a cat is content. Sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn't. Cats also purr when they are hurt, sick or scared, and might even purr to comfort themselves.

Cats love milk. Some of them might like it, but it's not the best thing for them. Milk tends to cause diarrhea in cats, and that's not fun to clean up if the cat doesn't make it to the litter box! Too much milk also can cause weight gain. It's best to stick to water to avoid an upset stomach.

There's nothing mythical about the joy cats bring to our lives. Understanding what our feline friends can and can't do helps us appreciate their strengths and charms.