1. Ears are alert. Eyes are wide open. Tail is relaxed. Body is straight, upright.

This cat is happy. "I trust you and am ready for attention." A safe cat to pet.

2. Ears are straight up. Eyes are closed. Tail is relaxed. Body is relaxed.

This cat feels safe and happy. Cats must trust you before sleeping in your presence. Don't surprise a sleeping cat.

3. Body is crouched. Ears are slightly back. Tail is slightly twitching. Pupils are dilated.

This cat is playful. "Let's have some fun!" He is ready to pounce, so approach with some caution.

4. Ears are down and back. Hair is erect. Mouth is open and hissing. Tail is swishing quickly and is "puffed up." Body is crouched. Pupils are fully dilated.

This cat is ready to defend himself! "Don't touch me or I may bite or scratch!" Leave this cat alone.

Credit: Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society