

**SPCA Auckland Education
Teacher Guide Sheet**



**'Inside the Mind of the Cat' Level 8 Biology
Year 13**

Achievement Objective 8.1

'Investigate and identify aspects of animal behaviour and plant responses in relation to biotic and abiotic environmental factors'

Achievement Standard 90716

'Describe animal behaviour and plant responses'

'Inside the Mind of the Cat' Worksheet
Level 8

Observe cats in your neighbourhood, and those at the SPCA, and list the behaviours observed. For each behaviour seen, write down its significance to the group organisation of cats (hierarchy).



Answer the following questions:

1. What does the word 'hierarchy' mean?

2. **Cat meow** - In what circumstances does it occur?

Significance for the hierarchy

3. **Cat hiss** - In what circumstances does it occur?

Significance for the hierarchy

4. **Cat chirrup**

Significance for the hierarchy



5. **Cat purr**

Significance for the hierarchy

6. **Cat yowl**

Significance for the hierarchy

7. **Where do cats like to be touched?**

Significance

8. **Aggressive posture** – describe the features of this.

Significance



9. **Submissive posture** – describe the features of this.

Significance

10. **Scratching the ground after defecating**

Significance

11. **Walking silently** - how they achieve this

Significance



12. **Tail held high** - when does this happen?

Significance

13. **Rubbing against things** - when and where does this happen?

Significance



14. **Dominant stance**

Significance

15. **Cues for play** - how can you entice a cat to play?

Significance

16. **Note the area covered each day - home range.**

Significance



17. **How can a cat distinguish its own territory?**

Significance

Finally, identify the qualities of cats that make them desirable as pets.

