

Alex Melconian

Tech Lit

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A Cat's Intelligence

The door shut with a short 'click' as the human exited the house. The cat smiled and turned toward the kitchen. He padded confidently past the snoring dog, onto the tile. He scanned the shelves looking for one in particular. Upon finding the correct cabinet, he approached. He balanced on his hind legs, and reached out with his front paws. He hooked a claw around the handle of the cabinet and pulled it open, then his mouth gaped in awe at the prize waiting inside.

Cats are much smarter than given credit for. Though they are more independent than dogs, they are also more intelligent. People say that cats aren't as smart as dogs because you can't train cats, but that's not true. It is possible to train cats, but it is harder for another reason, they are too smart to be trained. Dogs do tricks to simply please their master. Cats, however, do it to get a reward. To train a cat you need to find something it enjoys, commonly food. Then it's basically the same as training a dog, you just need to be more patient.

Cats learn by observing, and trial and error. For example, if a human opens the door. A cat will observe this, and see how their owner grabs the handle, turns it, then the door opens. Then, by using trial and error, the cat may jump up, twist the handle with their paw, and push the door open. Cats also have the ability to recognize patterns, and have a sense of time. Like, if the cat knows it gets fed twice a day, at 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. It will be able to know when and where it needs to be fed, and therefore can 'remind' the owner to feed them.

All in all, cats are a lot smarter than most people realize, so much, they can open a cabinet to where the treats are kept. They can also bug their owners about feeding them at the correct time, and even taunt the dog from a high surface. So next time you see a cat, give him a good pet to reward him for being so smart and amazing.