



5 facts about noses

1 No two are the same

A cat's nose has a unique pattern of bumps and ridges that mean each one is different, just like a human fingerprint. Don't try taking a 'nose print' of your cat though, it'll get very messy!

2 The colour matches the fur

The colour of your cat's nose is directly related to their fur colour. White and ginger cats tend to have pink noses, black cats have black noses and if your cat is multicoloured, their nose could be patterned too.

3 They're very sensitive

Cats have 200 million scent receptors in their noses, more than most breeds of dog, so they are very sensitive to strong smells. This is why they often don't like scented cat litter, as the smell is too strong for them.

4 It's not the only smell organ

As well as smelling with their nose, cats can also use the vomeronasal organ located in their mouth to detect scents. To do this they use the 'flehmen response', opening their mouth for several seconds and curling back their upper lip in a sort of grimace.

5 Smell drives hunger

Cats don't have many taste receptors, so it's usually the smell of their food, rather than the taste that stimulates their appetite. That's why cats with blocked noses often go off their food, and some cats like their wet food warmed up to strengthen the aroma.