

FEAR BEHAVIOURS IN KITTENS

Kittens show some specific behaviours when they are fearful. Watch for things like ear, tail, and abdomen positions, motor activities, and other behavioural indicators.

NOTE: These behaviours occur in combination with avoidance when a kitten backs or runs away from an object or stimulus



CROUCHED ABDOMEN

When a kitten's body is close to the ground with all four legs bent and their belly close to or touching the ground



TUCKED OR LOWERED TAIL

When a kitten tucks their tail under their body or wraps their tail around their hind legs



EARS BACK OR SIDEWAYS

When a kitten turns one or both ears backwards or sideways (think "airplane ears")



PILOERECTION

When a kitten raises the fur on their neck, shoulder, back and/or tail, giving a puffed-up appearance (think "Halloween cat")



FREEZING

When a kitten freezes in place and is immobile with their body tensed for at least 2 seconds



SLOW MOVEMENTS

When a kitten walks slowly, more covered and slower than normal, upright walking

FLINCHING

When a kitten suddenly jumps or jolts

↓ Fear can progress to aggression ↓



AGGRESSION

When a kitten swats, bites, or hisses