

How a Cat's Eyes Work - Reading Lesson

Perhaps you have thought about what makes a cat's eyes look different, or how they work in the dark? Have you ever asked yourself the reason why their eyes are formed in a different way in comparison to yours? Why do their eyes glow in the dark? Can a cat see better than you? Why is it so hard to sneak up on a cat, even if it is completely dark?

If you take a really good look at the eyes of a cat, you will see that the middle part of their eye, the pupil, is not shaped the same as yours is. Most cats have a pupil shaped like a small line, or slit, or they could be a big round circle. Unlike humans, a cat can change the size of their pupil as the light changes. This lets them adjust their vision so they can see better.

At dark, a cat's eye needs a lot more light to see, so the pupil becomes bigger, or dilates. This lets them bring more light into their eye, making their vision better. At night, you might notice that a cat's eyes look like they are glowing in the dark. This is because of how their eye becomes bigger in the dark. The appearance of glowing is caused by a part of their eye called the tapetum lucidum. This part of the eye is right behind the retina. The tapetum lucidum acts like a mirror inside their eye. It allows the light their eye takes in to reflect more, making their vision even clearer.

During the day, a cat does not need as much light to see, because there is enough light in the world around them. During this time, their pupil is small, and may look like a small line or slit.

At first, you may think that a cat can see better than humans, especially since they are able to see in the dark, and since they can see you sneaking up on them from the side. The truth is, cats are not able to see better than humans. Their vision is very poor in comparison to ours. Even though a cat cannot see as clear as we can, they are able to see things that are moving farther away than we can.

Since a cat's vision is more blurry than a human's, they are not able to see the same colors we do. Cats have a form of colorblindness that keeps them from seeing a lot of colors.

Now you know what a cat can see. You also know they cannot see all of the pretty colors we do. Would you want to see like a cat?