Window Tabby

Can a cat turn its ears without turning its head?



Did you know? Yes. The outer ears can swivel while the head stays still. That helps a cat work out where a sound came from. A tabby watching the window might turn an ear toward a sound behind it.

Sleeping Kitten

Do cats sleep all day?



Did you know? Cats often sleep for 12 to 16 hours a day, in bouts of different lengths. Many are especially active around dawn and dusk, when the light is changing. If a cat naps through the afternoon, it may be ready to play just as the evening begins.

Cardboard Box Cat

Why might a cat choose a cardboard box?



Did you know? A box gives a cat a sheltered place to watch from or retreat to. In one study, cats arriving at a shelter settled more quickly when they had a box to hide in. For a cat, an empty box can be a little room of its own.

Garden Calico

Do all calicos have the same patches?



Did you know? No. A calico coat has orange and dark patches with white areas, but their shapes and positions vary. The orange and dark areas form as different groups of skin cells follow different color instructions. White markings follow a separate set of instructions.

Curious Tuxedo

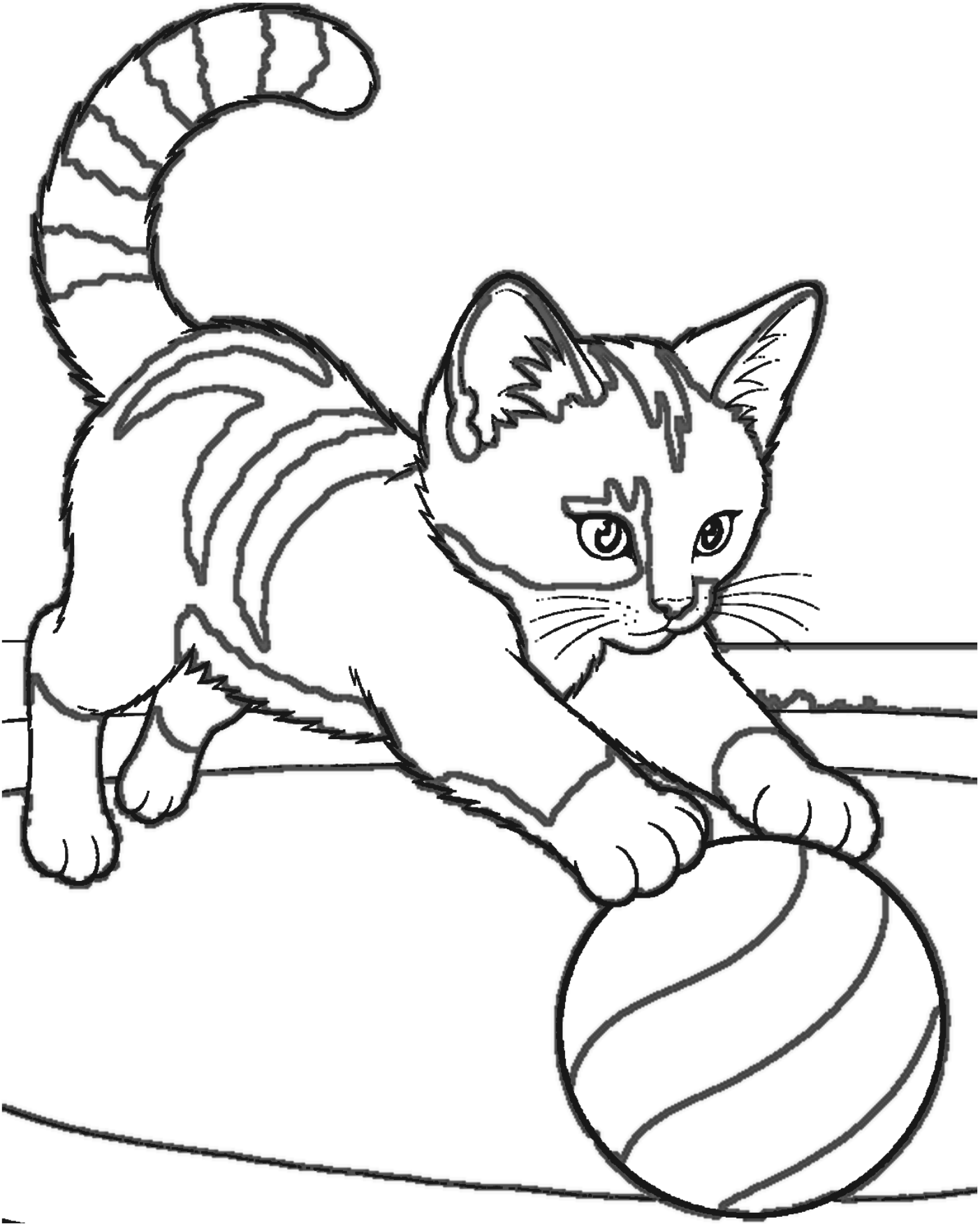
Is tuxedo a kind of cat breed?



Did you know? Tuxedo describes a coat pattern. A dark cat with a white chest and paws can look like it's dressed up for a party. Cats of different breeds can have white markings on a dark coat.

Ginger Pounce

What does a cat do just before a pounce?



Did you know? A cat may stalk first, moving quietly and low to the ground before springing forward. The sequence also shows up in play. Watch a cat with a toy that moves along the floor and you might see the same careful approach and sudden leap.

Black Cat by Moonlight

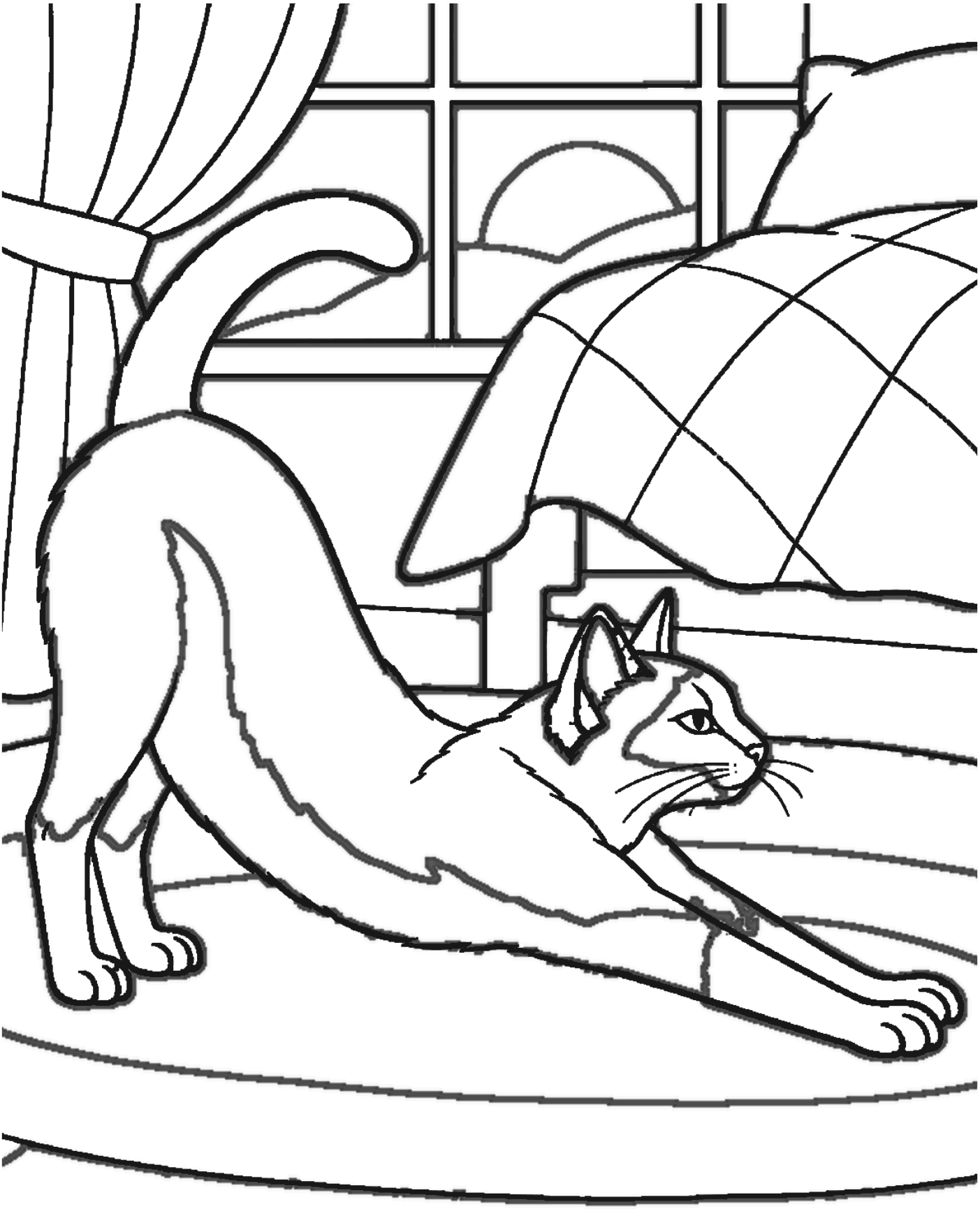
Why do cat eyes sometimes shine in the dark?



Did you know? Cats have a layer at the back of each eye that reflects light. It gives the eye another chance to catch a little light, helping the cat see when it's dim. Some of that reflected light can come back toward you and make the eyes look as if they glow.

Siamese Stretch

Why are a Siamese cat's paws darker?



Did you know? A Siamese cat grows darker fur on cooler parts of its body. That's why the paws, ears, face and tail are usually darker than the back and belly. These darker areas are called points.

Maine Coon

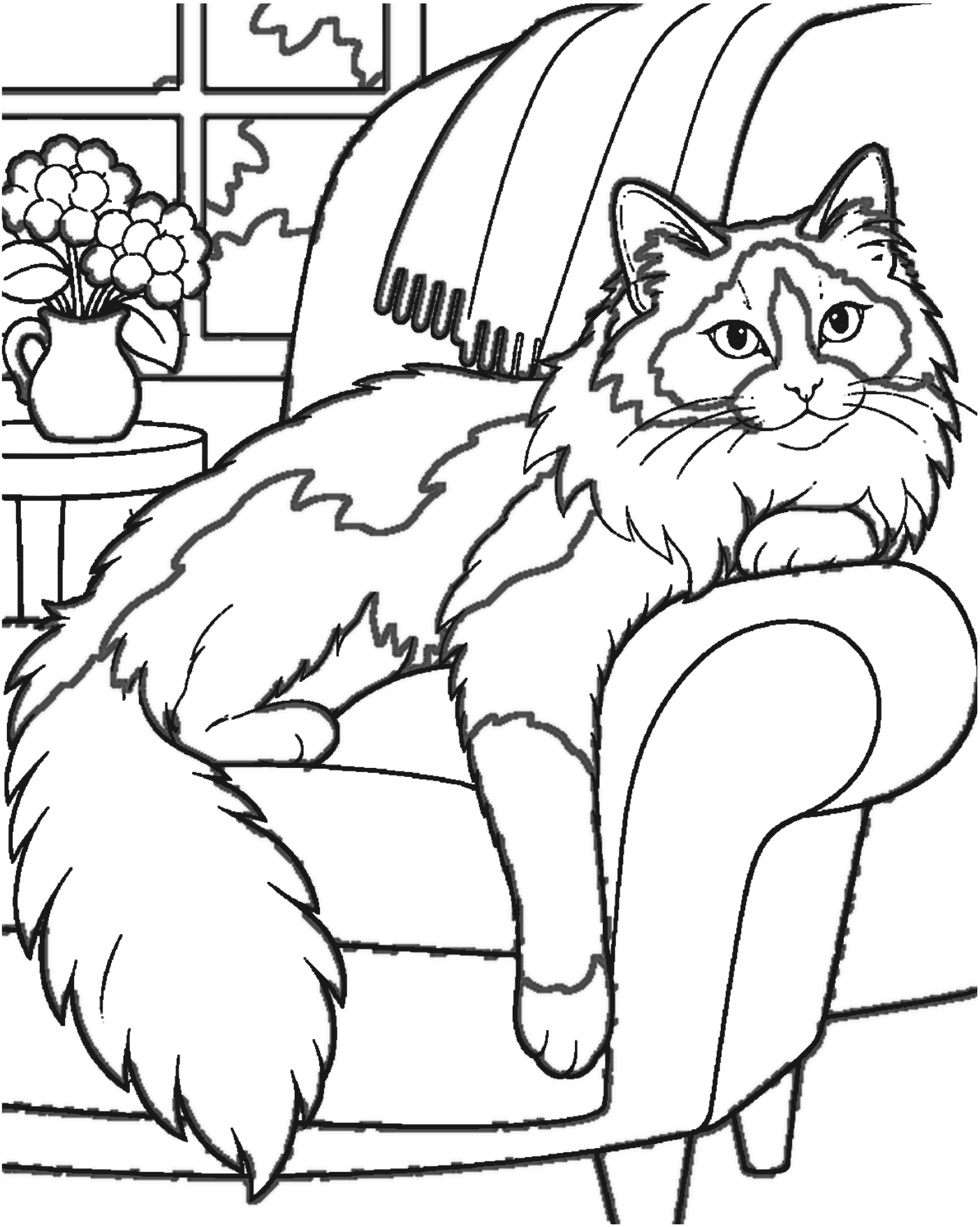
Where is a Maine Coon's coat longest?



Did you know? A Maine Coon's coat is often shorter over the shoulders and longer along the belly and backs of the legs. Its big, bushy tail and tufts between its toes make the outline especially shaggy. Can you find any toe tufts in the drawing?

Ragdoll

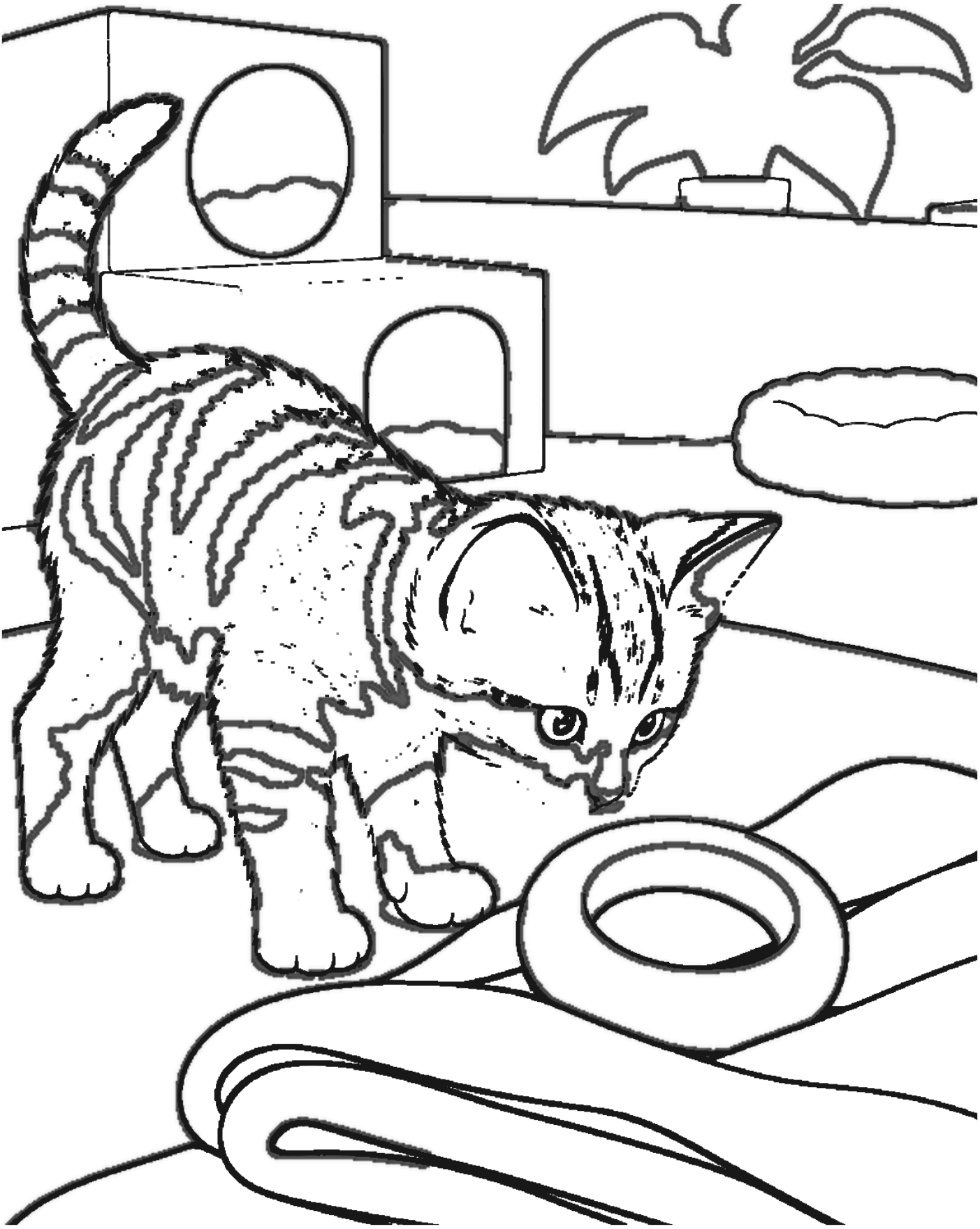
How can a Ragdoll look fluffy and feel silky?



Did you know? A Ragdoll has many long outer hairs and relatively little of the short, woolly fur underneath. The long hairs give the coat its silky feel. The breed is also known for its blue eyes.

Shelter Kitten

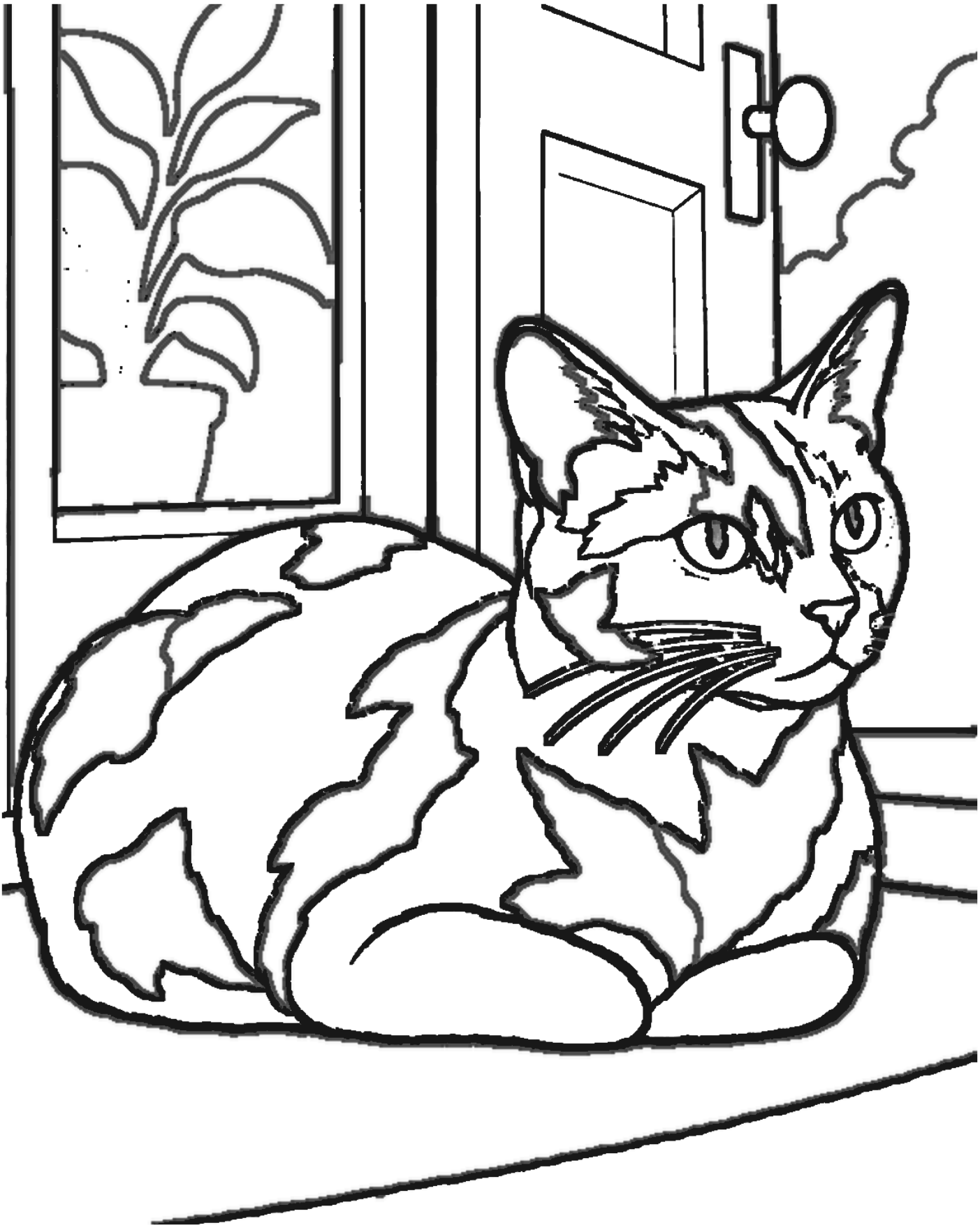
Can you say hello to a cat without a sound?



Did you know? Try a gentle slow blink from a comfortable distance. In one study, cats narrowed their eyes more often when a person slow-blinked at them. Then give the cat space to decide whether to come closer.

Tortoiseshell Cat

Why are most tortoiseshell cats female?



Did you know? The instructions for orange fur are carried on the X chromosome. Most female cats have two X chromosomes. If one carries the orange instruction and the other doesn't, different patches can grow orange or dark fur.

Silver Tabby

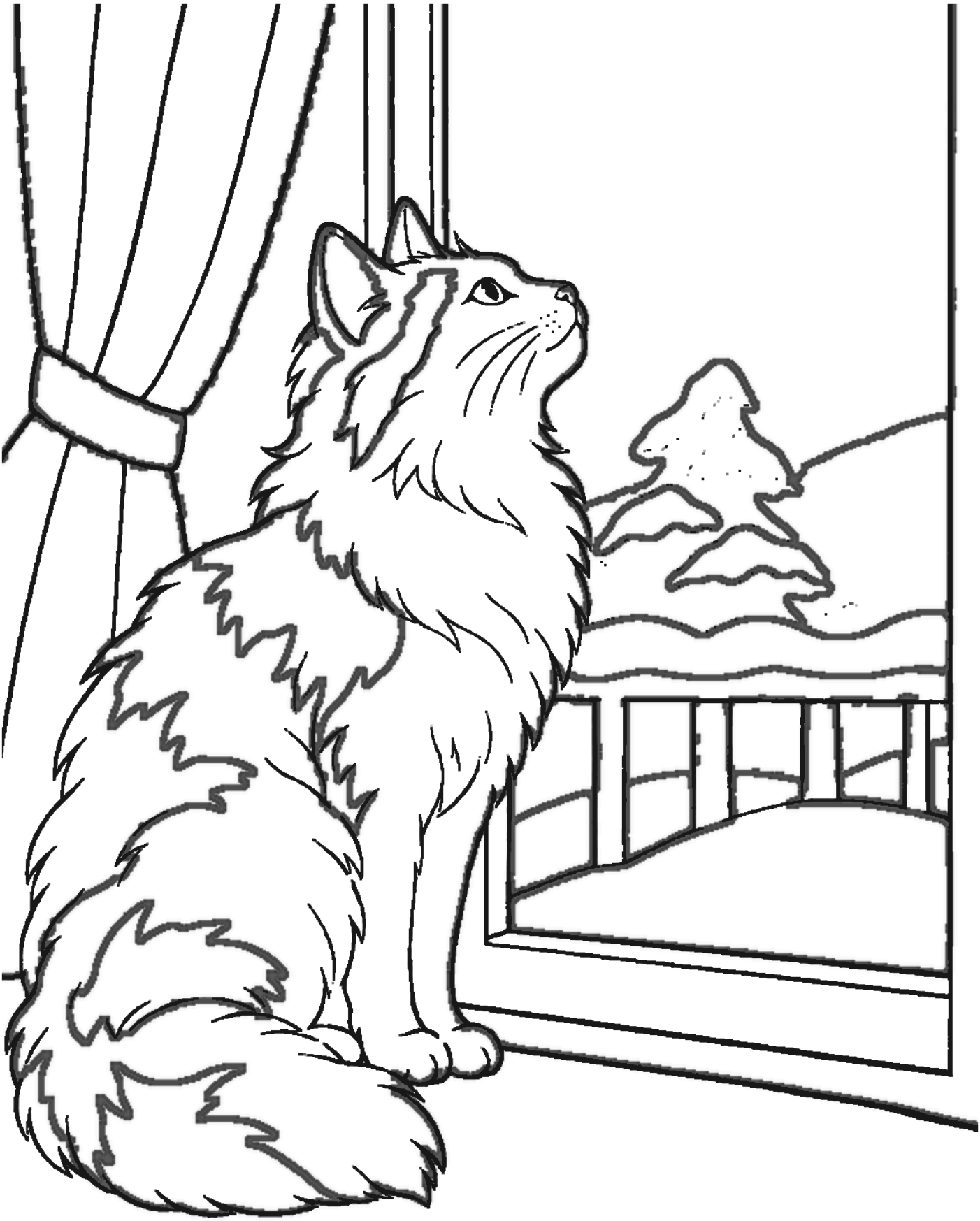
Where does a silver tabby's pale color come from?



Did you know? In a silver coat, many hairs are pale near the roots and darker at the tips. On a silver tabby, dark stripes stand out against the pale fur between them. Looking closely at one hair can tell you something about the pattern on the whole cat.

White Cat in the Snow

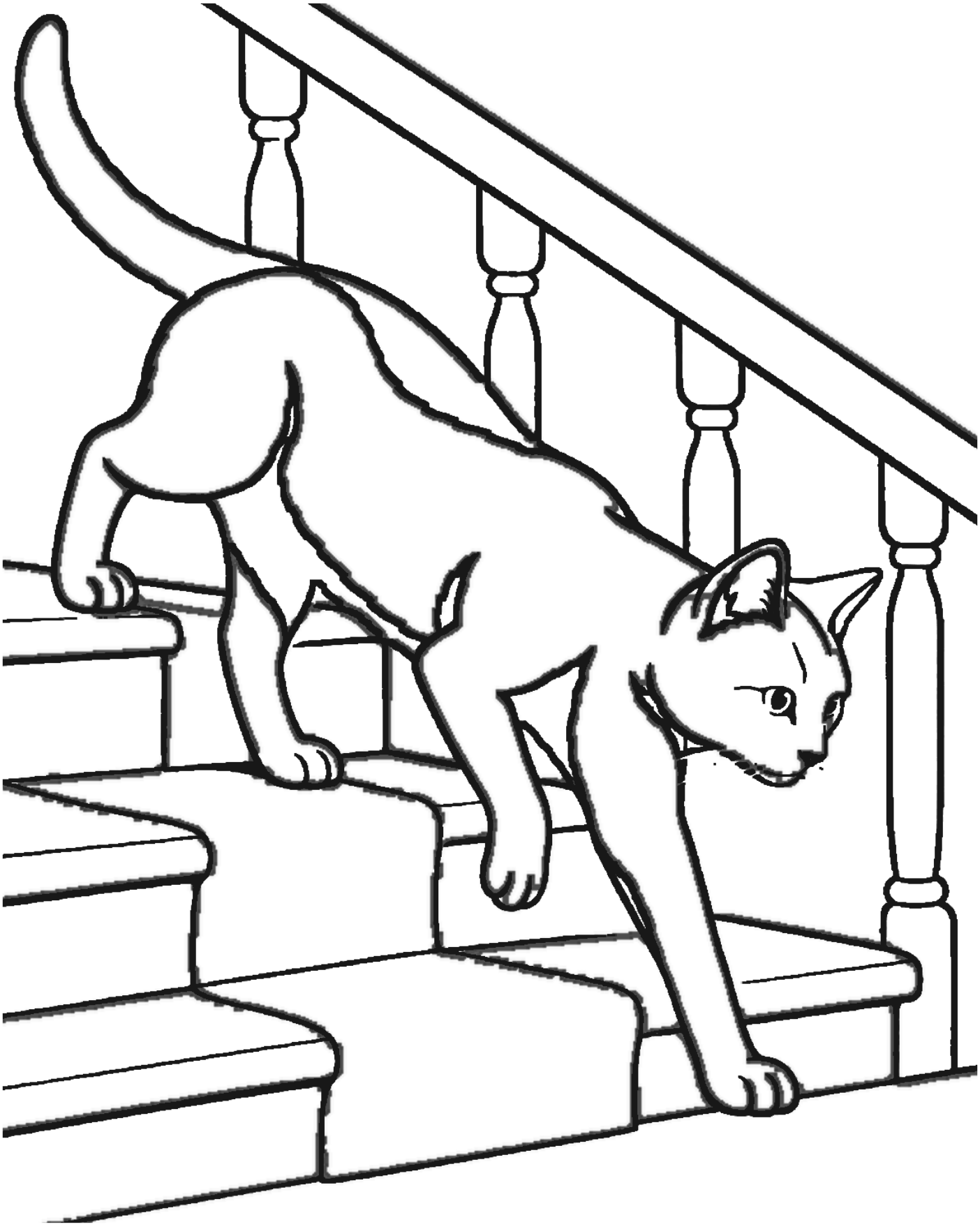
Can a white cat have two different eye colors?



Did you know? Yes. Some white cats have one blue eye and one eye of another color. White cats can also have two eyes the same color. Different amounts of pigment, the substance that gives color, help create those differences.

Gray Cat on the Stairs

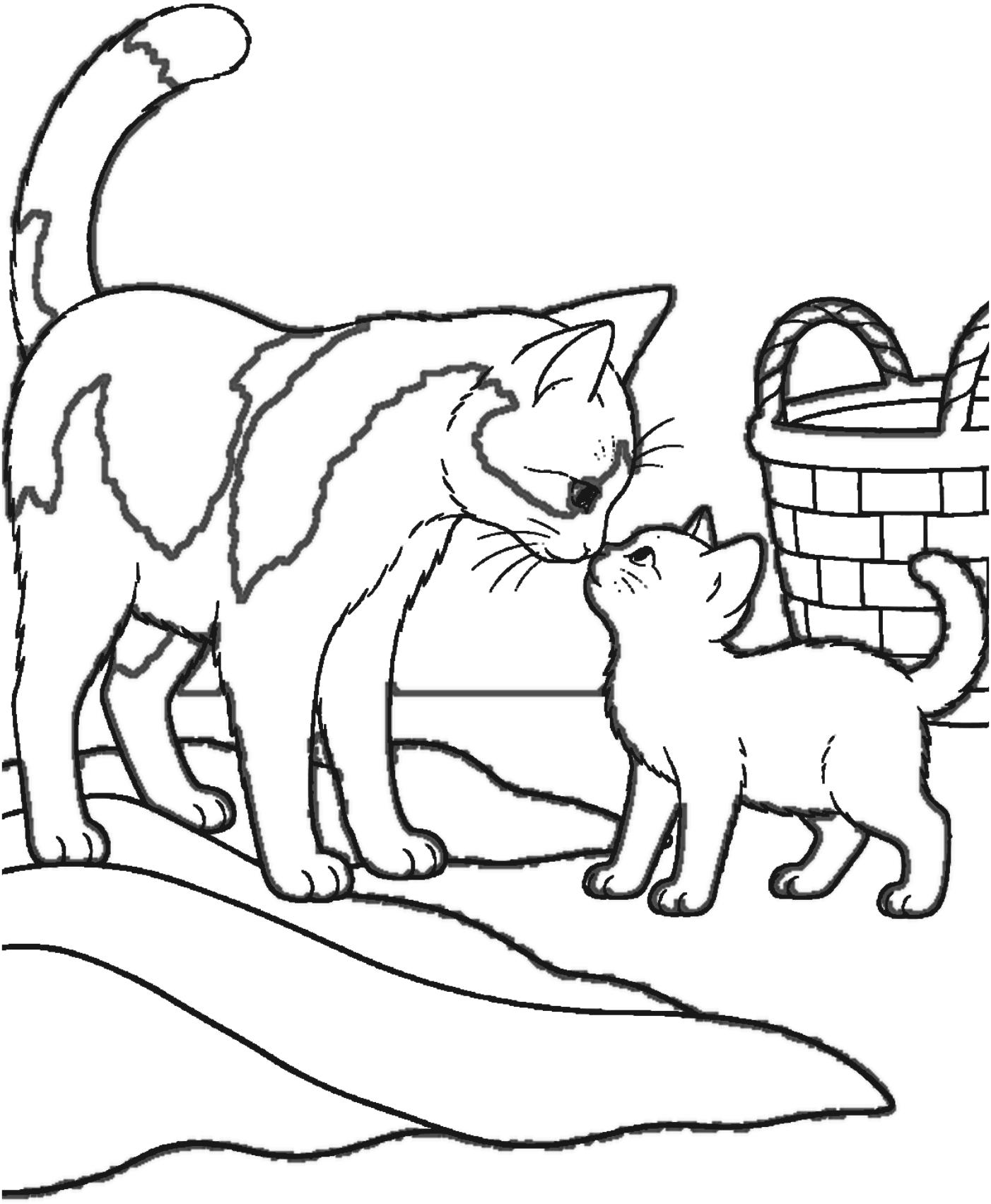
How does a cat use its tail for balance?



Did you know? On a narrow step or ledge, a cat can move its tail to help steady the rest of its body. Its flexible spine helps it adjust, too. Look at which way the tail points in the drawing.

Kitten and Mother

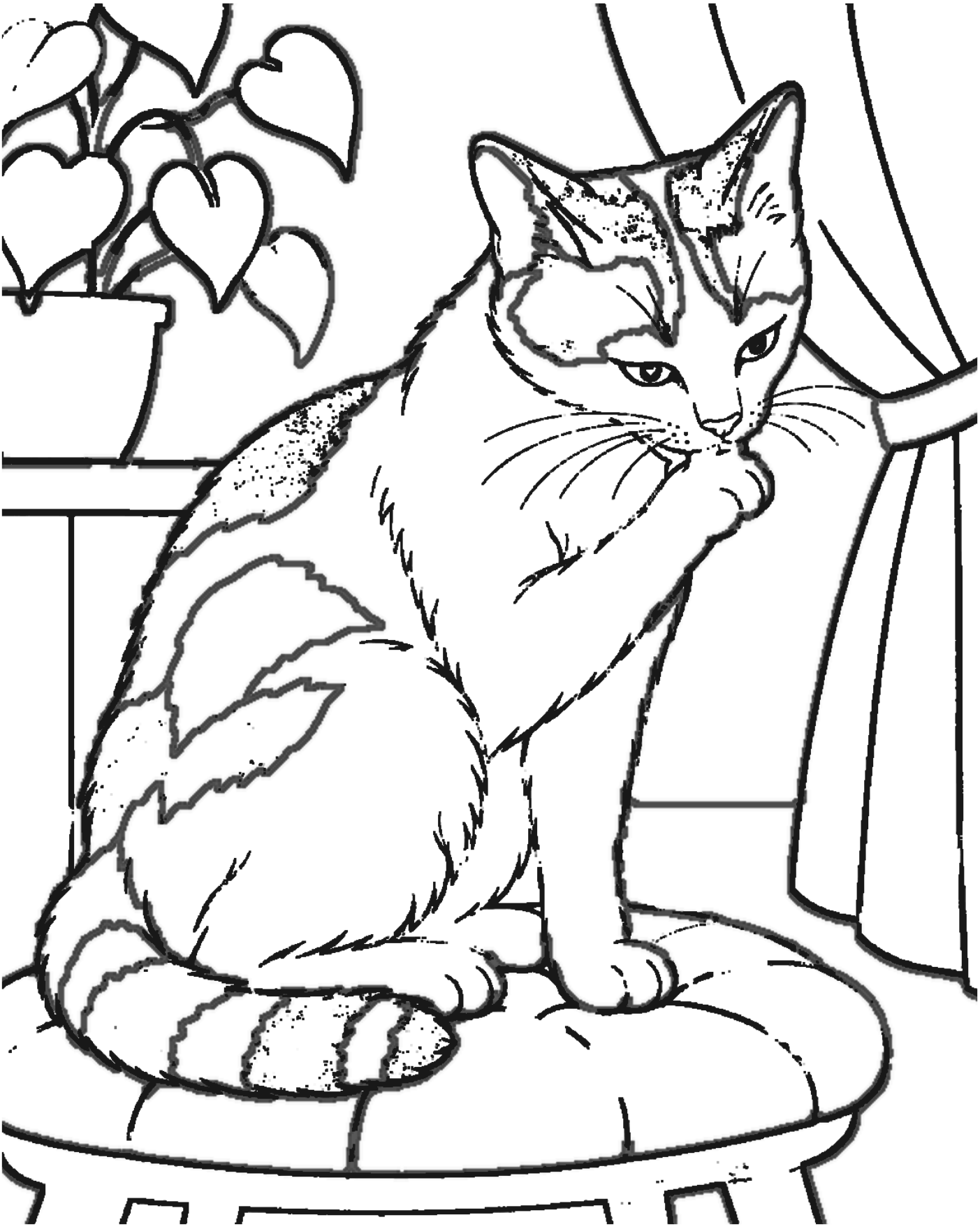
Can kittens see as soon as they're born?



Did you know? Newborn kittens arrive with their eyes closed. Most open them about 7 to 14 days after birth. In the meantime, they spend a lot of time close to their mother, feeding and sleeping.

Kitten Washing Up

Why does a cat's tongue feel rough?



Did you know? A cat's tongue has tiny hooks that point backward. They work like the teeth of a comb as the cat licks its coat. The hooks also help carry saliva below the surface of the fur.

Climbing Kitten

How does a kitten grip when it climbs?



Did you know? A kitten can bring out its curved claws to grip a rough surface. Its back legs give it a strong push, while its front paws help it pull upward. When the claws aren't needed, they can tuck back toward the toes.

Cat at Play

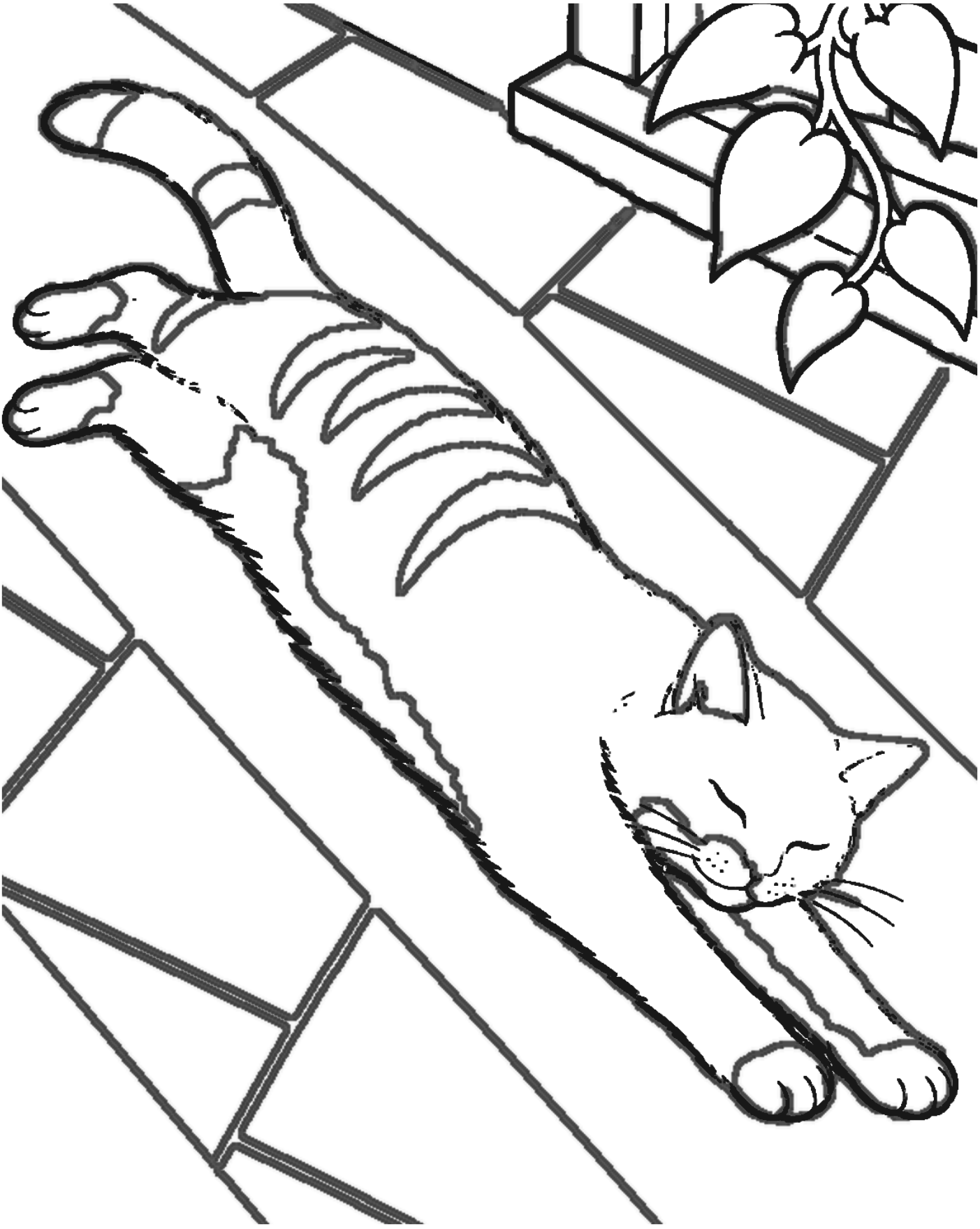
Do cats ever play fetch?



Did you know? Some cats bring a toy back to a person and wait for another toss. Researchers who surveyed people with fetching cats found that most said their cats had started doing it without being taught.

Cat in a Sunbeam

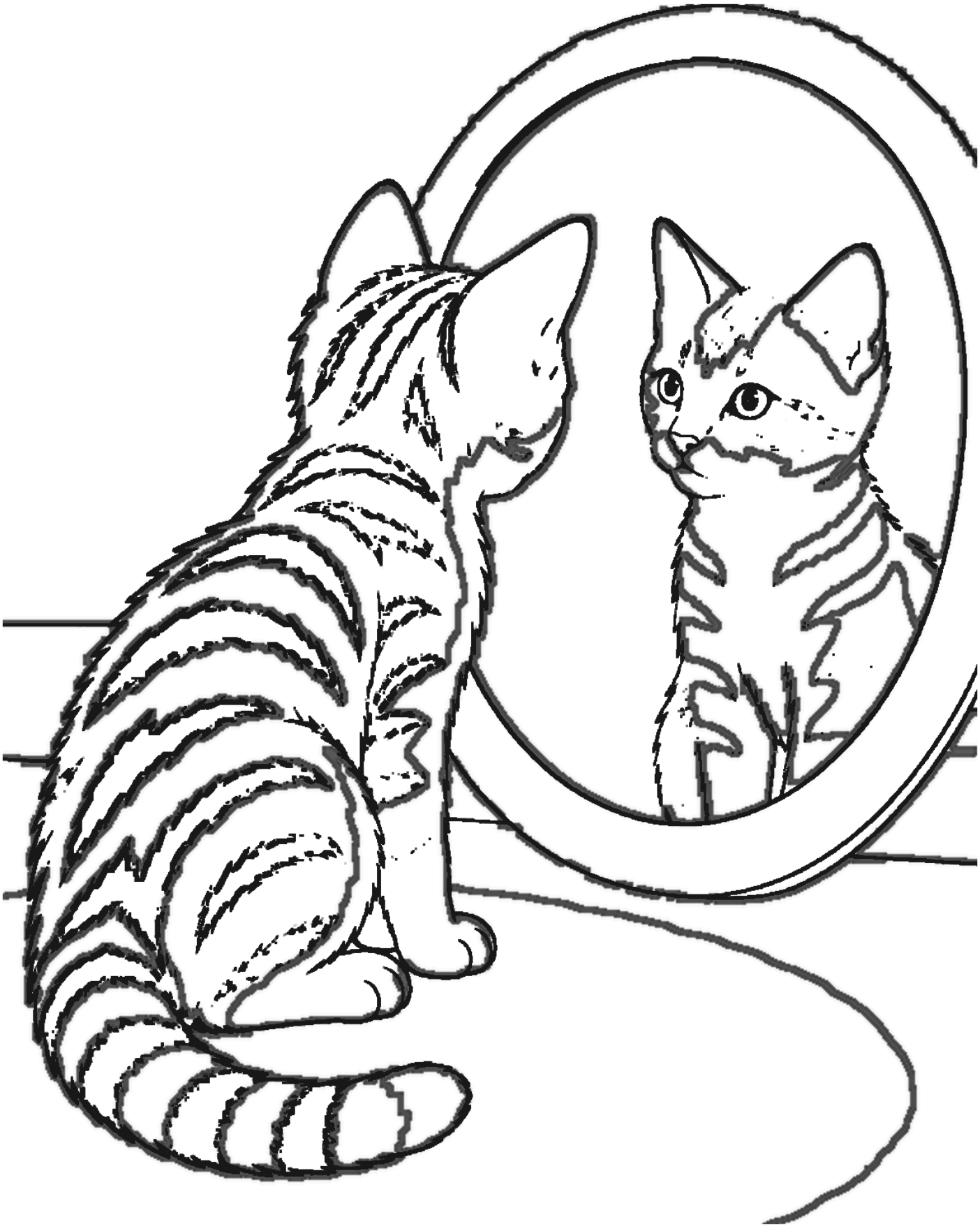
Why does a cat pick a sunny spot?



Did you know? A patch of sunshine can be warmer than the rest of the room. A cat can choose that spot when it wants warmth and move into shade or onto a cooler surface when it's had enough.

Kitten and Mirror

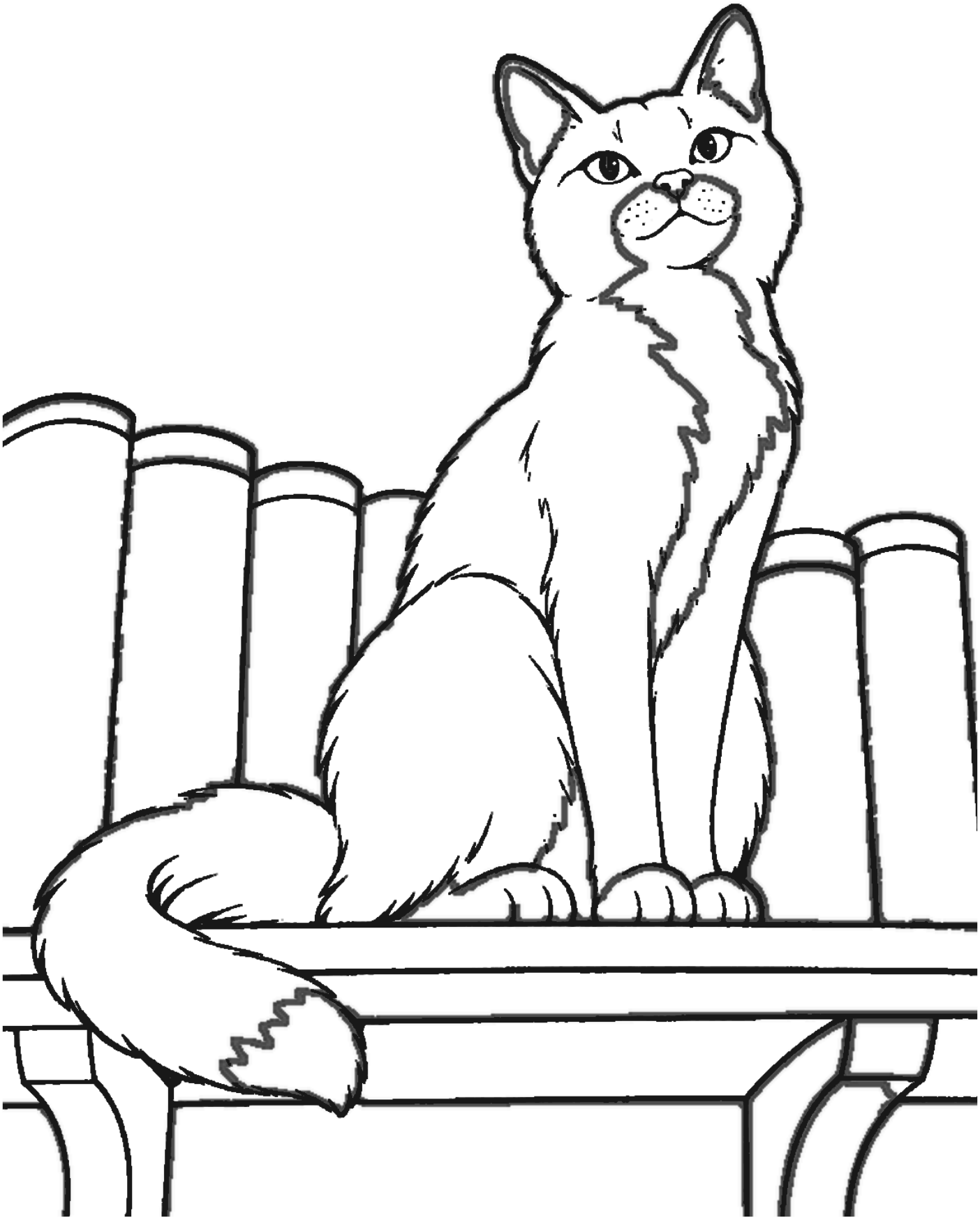
Can a cat recognize you without seeing you?



Did you know? A mirror gives a cat an image. A voice can give the cat a different clue. In an experiment, cats heard recordings while their people were out of view. They responded more strongly to their person's voice than to a stranger's, often moving their ears or head.

Cat on a Bookshelf

What does a cat get from a high perch?



Did you know? From high up, a cat can watch what's going on around it. A perch can also be a place to rest away from busy feet. A sturdy cat tree gives a cat its own place to climb and look out.

Cat in Autumn

Can a cat grow a winter coat?



Did you know? Many cats grow a thicker coat in colder months. Their fur traps air next to the skin, which helps slow heat loss. Watch how big and fluffy a cat can look when its fur stands up.

Cat on a Rainy Day

Why does a cat look for shelter in the rain?



Did you know? A dry coat helps hold in body heat. Wet fur makes it harder for a cat to stay warm, especially in cool weather. A covered spot gives the cat a chance to stay dry while it waits for the rain to pass.

Kitten and Butterfly

What makes a butterfly's wings so colorful?



Did you know? Butterfly wings are covered in tiny scales that overlap like tiles. Some scales contain color, and others change how light bounces off them. From a distance those little scales make the dots, stripes and patches the kitten can watch flutter by.