

Cat Friendly Interactions

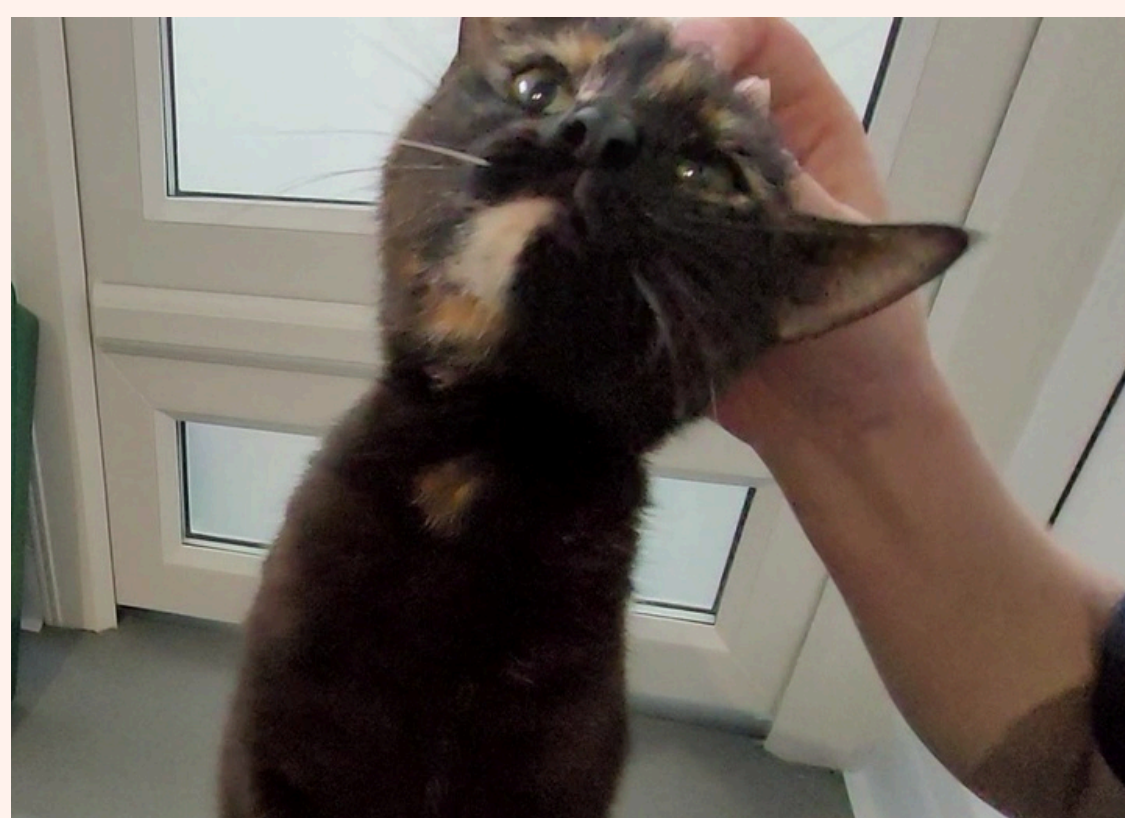
Hi, I'm Patrick Touch-Zone, I'd like to show you how to speak our language!



Ever noticed how cats always go to the one person in the room who doesn't like cats? That's because they feel more comfortable when you don't make eye contact, and leave them to come to you, in their own time. Curiosity will get the better of them and they'll soon come to check you out.

As you can see I'm sporting a Traffic Light patchwork Touch Zone coat. To help us feel more secure, please stick to the Green Zone. When we feel more settled, some of us cats will let you know it might be ok to move on to the Amber Zones by rubbing round you with those areas. And occasionally, some rare folk, who leave their dignity at the door, will enjoy the odd Red Zone, but it's best to always steer clear as we can't be held accountable for our actions!

Start by holding a softly closed fist towards them so they can approach and sniff. If they nuzzle round your hand, try giving them a short fuss around their cheeks. Stop every few seconds and offer your hand again. This allows them to end the interaction without getting overstimulated or annoyed. If they don't nuzzle again they've finished for now. This builds trust from the start of your relationship. as they know they are in control.



If someone doesn't head bump you, don't be offended, it's nothing personal. They have a lot on their plate at the moment, they might just need a minute to get their bearings. Try again next time they approach you.

international **catcare** Wellbeing Wednesday Interactions

C Did I give the cat a **CHOICE** about whether or not it wanted to interact with me?

A Am I paying **ATTENTION** and looking out for any subtle signs that the cat is uncomfortable?

T Where am I **TOUCHING** the cat and does the cat want me to keep touching?

Dr Lauren Finka