CHS KIDS NEWS

Fall 2026

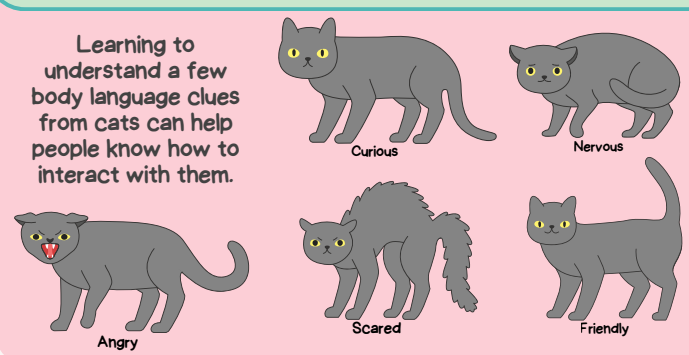
KID SPOTLIGHT

At just 10-years-old, Mia is already making a big difference in the lives of pets. For more than four years, she has been fostering kittens and helping them grow into happy and confident cats. With the support of her family, Mia has fostered 39 kittens! Mia was inspired to start fostering by her aunt, who fosters animals in San Diego. Mia's very first foster was an orange kitten named Timmy. Timmy was shy and didn't like to be held. Mia quickly learned that the best way to help him was to give him space and allow him the time he needed to feel comfortable. Instead of chasing after Timmy, she learned to be patient and let him come to her when he was ready. Since then, Mia has cared for kittens of all ages with many different needs. She has fostered healthy kittens, sick kittens, a mama cat with her babies, and even day-old kittens who needed to be bottle fed. Her first bottle babies were brother and sister kittens named Cheese Puff and Chex. Because they were so tiny, Mia read lots of information and even took an online class so she could learn how to give them the best care possible. "My foster animals have taught me how to be gentle and patient," Mia says. She has learned that animals need time to feel safe and comfortable. Sometimes a scared kitten might hide under the couch—or even in the Christmas tree! Mia doesn't force them to come out. Instead, she gives them time, food, play, and lots of patience. Mia's favorite part of fostering is watching kittens discover new things and reach exciting milestones. She loves seeing a frightened kitten become healthy, happy, and brave. The hardest part is saying goodbye when a kitten finds their new home. But Mia knows that her fosters are going to families where they will be safe, loved, and cared for. In the future, Mia would love to foster a puppy or a guinea pig, but mostly wants to help any animal in need. Mia shared some advice for anyone opening their home to a new pet: "We can't rush them. We just need to be patient and supportive of how they are feeling. When an animal starts coming out of its shell, we must encourage them and be gentle and kind."

Thank you Mia for all you have done to help CHS pets!

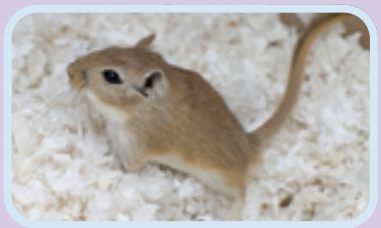
CAT BODY LANGUAGE

Learning to understand a few body language clues from cats can help people know how to interact with them.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Some species of animals look very similar, making it difficult to tell them apart. Two pets that CHS works with are no exception. Hamsters and gerbils are both rodents, which are small, furry mammals with one pair of front teeth on the top and bottom that continue to grow throughout their lives. Hamsters and gerbils have simlar eating seeds, grains, and vegetables. They both enjoy running, digging, and exploring their habitats, which can include toys, climbing structures, and hidey houses. Both can be active at night or around bedtime, although gerbils are often active at different times throughout the day and night.



Hamster	Gerbil
Usually have a rounder, chubbier body	Have a slimmer body
Has a very short tail	Has a long, furry tail
Prefers to live alone	Usually enjoys living with another gerbil
Nocturnal	Crepuscular
Loves to stuff food in their cheek pouches	They will carry treats in their mouth, but do not have cheek pouches

VOCABULARY WORDS

Directions: Look up the following words

- Nocturnal
- Crepuscular

WHAT THE PETS NEED

Below are supplies that pets at CHS always need

- Cat Litter
- Toys
- Dog Food
- Cat Food
- Monetary Donations

For the pets wish list visit: CThumane.org/wishlist

TRIVIA

True or False: A rat's whiskers help them navigate in the dark.

ACTIVITY: GUESS THE PET

Clues for Pet 1

- I'm small and furry, but I'm not a mouse.
- I love fresh vegetables, but I don't live on a farm.
- I can make a sound when I'm excited, and sometimes I squeak when I hear you coming!
- I have four little feet and a rounded body. I like having a cozy place to hide.
- I don't bark, I don't meow, and I'm not known for chasing balls.

What pet am I?

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Clues for Pet 2

- I come in all shapes and sizes, from small to extra large.
- Even though I live in your house, my ancient ancestors are wolves.
- I don't sweat through my skin to cool down; instead, I stick out my tongue and pant.
- Daily outside time is important.
- My sense of smell is up to 100,000 times stronger than a human's.

What pet am I?

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Activity: Pet 1: guinea pig and Pet 2 dog, Trivia: True