

## THE CAT'S EARS ~ Have You Heard?

True Story! – On more than a few occasions while lying in bed on a weekend morning with my eyes closed (but I was awake) I would hear my late Sweet Pea pacing around the room anxiously waiting for me to get up to feed her. After a few unsuccessful attempts at trying to get me up she would eventually settle back down. I'd wait a minute or so & without any other movement I would open my eyes & her head would immediately turn towards me no matter where she was in the room. I swear she could "HEAR" my eyes open!!



~ Cats hear lower frequencies & higher frequencies than dogs & people do. A cat's hearing range is approximately 45hz to 64khz, compared to 67hz to 45khz in dogs, while the range of human hearing is usually pegged at 20hz to 20khz.

~ Each ear is controlled by 32 muscles. This allows a cat to rotate each ear 180 degrees which can increase their hearing sensitivity to a specific sound by 15 - 20%.

~ The inner ear contains the vestibular system, which helps provide a sense of balance & spatial orientation. Its shared location & connectivity to the sensory parts of the inner ear mean that an inner ear infection can affect both hearing & vestibular function. As a result, a cat with an inner ear infection may exhibit signs like a head tilt or a curvature of the body toward the side where the infection is.

~ Those folds of skin on the outer bases of their ears are formally called the cutaneous marginal pouches, but are more commonly known as Henry's pockets!

~ White cats with blue eyes have higher than normal incidences of [congenital deafness](#) due to genetic anomalies that result in the degeneration of some of the important sensory parts of the ear. The gene that produces white hair & skin does so by suppressing pigment cells including those in the tissue of the inner ear. If those cells don't function then the tissue degenerates & the sensory cells involved in hearing die, leading to deafness.

~ A cat's ear temperature can help you tell if he is stressed out. Cats' responses to fear & stress include increased adrenaline & other physiological changes that lead to energy generation in the body. Part of that energy is released as heat, increasing a cat's body temperature in several areas. Scientists have found that the temperature of a [cat's right ear](#) (but not the left ear) is related to the level of certain hormones released in response to stress, & could be a reliable indicator of psychological stress.

~ Learn more on these & other fascinating facts about the cat's ears at this link:

<https://m.petmd.com/cat/care/cat-facts-10-interesting-things-about-cat-ears>