

FREQUENTLY ASKED:

# How does my cat know it's me?

*As guided by Amy*

FOUNDER, NOOSA COUNTRY CAT HOTEL

## Their Nose Is Their Superpower

Cats experience the world primarily through scent. They have around 40 times more scent receptor cells than humans, allowing them to recognise individuals, places and objects long before they rely on sight.

Bradshaw (2016). The Behaviour of the Domestic Cat.  
Vitale et al. (2022). Animals.

## You Have Your Own Unique Scent

Your cat recognises you by your unique scent profile, created by your skin, hair, clothing and the micro-organisms that naturally live on your body. To your cat, your smell is as distinctive as a fingerprint.

Ellis et al. (2015). Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery.  
Turner & Bateson (2021). The Domestic Cat.

## Cats Build Scent Memories

Each positive interaction strengthens your cat's memory of your scent. Feeding, gentle handling, play and quiet companionship all become linked with your smell, helping your cat recognise you even after time apart.

Rochlitz (2015). Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery.  
Vitale Shreve & Udell (2019). Current Biology.

## Bunting Is More Than Affection

When your cat rubs their face against you, they're depositing facial pheromones from glands around their cheeks. This creates a shared scent and marks you as part of their familiar social environment.

International Society of Feline Medicine (2022).  
AAFP/ISFM Feline Environmental Needs Guidelines.

## Familiar Scents Help Cats Feel Safe

During boarding, familiar-smelling bedding or an unwashed T-shirt from home can provide reassurance. Your scent acts as a familiar cue in an unfamiliar environment and may help reduce stress while your cat settles.

Ellis et al. (2015). Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery.  
ISFM (2022). Environmental Needs Guidelines.

## Your Cat Recognises More Than Your Voice

While cats can recognise familiar voices, research suggests scent is usually their primary way of identifying the people they know and trust. This is why many cats locate their owners by smell before they even see them.

Saito & Shinozuka (2013). Animal Cognition.  
Takagi et al. (2022). PLOS ONE.



Your cat knows you first by your scent. Every familiar smell, gentle interaction and shared experience strengthens that bond, making your unique scent one of the most reassuring parts of their world.

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FELINE CARE

Noosa Country  
Cat HOTEL

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WELLBEING  
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