

A Study of the Relationship between Cat Coat Color and Personality Traits

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Abstract: Currently, there are many theories regarding the impact of cat coat color on personality traits. I aimed to compare the personalities of cats of different colors to see how closely they align with these theories. I collected data from a survey of 300 cat owners and found that the percentages of cats whose personalities matched the theories were as follows: orange cats 30.3%, white cats 21.7%, black cats 9%, calico cats 13%, tortoiseshell cats 13%, and tabby cats 13%. These findings suggest that a cat's coat color does not entirely determine its personality. It also depends on the rearing system, the care it receives, and traumatic events that may cause changes in its personality.

Keywords: cat, coat, personality, orange, white, black, calico, tortoiseshell, tabby.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

Currently, numerous theories exist linking cat coat color to specific personality traits, leading to common beliefs such as orange cats being friendly, calm, and easily trainable. This study aims to compare the actual personalities of cats of different coat colors with these theoretical expectations, using Homeowner's article

"A Guide To Cat Personalities By Color Of Their Coats" by Logan Mastrianna as a reference point. Data from a Google Forms survey will be used to calculate the percentage of discrepancy and analyse the reasons why cat personalities might not align with the theorized traits associated with their coat color.

1.2 Research Objective

To compare the reported personality traits of cats with different coat colors against commonly cited theoretical expectations and to examine possible reasons for any discrepancies.

2. HYPOTHESIS

Most reported cat personalities are expected to align with the traits commonly associated with their coat color. Any discrepancies may be related to upbringing, care, or past traumatic experiences rather than coat color alone.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design and Participants

This non-experimental study used primary data collected through a Google Forms questionnaire. The sample consisted of 300 cat owners. The survey gathered qualitative information to compare reported personality traits across coat colors with the traits described in the reference theory.

3.2 Questionnaire

1. What is your gender?
2. What is your cat's coat color?
3. What personality traits does your cat display?

4. What care system do you use for your cat?
5. How often do you play with your cat each day?
6. Has your cat experienced a traumatic event that changed its personality? If yes, please provide details.
7. What traumatic event caused the change in your cat's personality?

The results were then compared with the following theories: 1. Orange cats are thought to have friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable personalities. 2. White cats are considered to have shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm personalities. 3. Black cats are believed to have highly independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals. 4. Calico cats are believed to have strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and are often vocal. 5. Tortoiseshell cats are thought to have stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners. 6. Tabby cats are thought to have courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn personalities.

4. RESULTS

This questionnaire collected data from a total of 300 cat owners, consisting of 140 females representing 46.7%, 70 males representing 23.3%, 75 LGBTQIA+ representing 25%, and 15 anonymous representing 5%. The breakdown of cat coat colors is as follows: 91 orange cats representing 30.3%, 65 white cats representing 21.7%, 27 black cats representing 9%, 39 tortoiseshell cats representing 13%, 39 calico cats representing 13%, and 39 tabby cats representing 13%.

TABLE 1: YOUR GENDER

Gender	Number of people	Percentage
Female	140	46.7
Male	70	23.3
LGBTQIA+	75	25
Anonymous	15	5

TABLE 2: THE COAT COLOR OF YOUR CAT

Coat color of cats	Number of cats	Percentage
Orange cats	91	30.3
White cats	65	21.7
Black cats	27	9
Calico cats	39	13
Tortoiseshell cats	39	13
Tabby cats	39	13

TABLE 3: THE PERSONALITIES OF ORANGE CATS

Personalities	Number of cats	Percentage
Friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable.	10	10.9
Shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm.	7	7.6
Independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals.	20	21.9
Strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and often vocal.	12	13.1
Stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners.	18	19.7
Courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn.	24	26.3

The survey results show that the majority of orange cats, totaling 24, are thought to have courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn personalities, representing 26.3%. According to the theory, the personality

traits of orange cats are supposed to be Stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners. In the survey, 18 cats matched this theory, representing 19.7%.

TABLE 4: THE PERSONALITIES OF WHITE CATS

Personalities	Number of cats	Percentage
Friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable.	16	24.6
Shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm.	13	20
Independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals.	11	16.9
Strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and often vocal.	9	13.8
Stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners.	8	12.3
Courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn.	8	12.3

The survey results show that the majority of white cats, totaling 16, are thought to have friendly, affectionate, clam, and trainable personalities, representing 24.6%. According to the theory, the personality traits of orange cats are supposed to be shy, loyal, affectionate, calm. and trainable. In the survey, 13 cats matched this theory, representing 20%.

TABLE 5: THE PERSONALITIES OF BLACK CATS

Personalities	Number of cats	Percentage
Friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable.	7	25.9
Shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm.	5	18.5
Independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals.	5	18.5
Strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and often vocal.	4	14.8
Stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners.	3	11.1
Courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn.	3	11.1

The survey results show that the majority of black cats, totaling 7, are thought to have friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable personalities, representing 25.9%. According to the theory, the personality traits of orange cats are supposed to be independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals. In the survey, 5 cats matched this theory, representing 18.5%.

TABLE 6: THE PERSONALITIES OF CALICO CATS

Personalities	Number of cats	Percentage
Friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable.	4	10.2
Shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm.	6	15.3
Independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals.	10	25.6
Strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and often vocal.	4	10.2
Stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners.	7	17.9
Courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn.	8	20.5

The survey results show that the majority of calico cats, totaling 10, are thought to have independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals personalities, representing 25.6%. According to the theory, the

personality traits of orange cats are supposed to be shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm. In the survey, 6 cats matched this theory, representing 15.3%.

TABLE 7: THE PERSONALITIES OF TORTOISESHELL CATS

Personalities	Number of cats	Percentage
Friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable.	6	15.3
Shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm.	14	35.9
Independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals.	4	10.2
Strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and often vocal.	4	10.2
Stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners.	6	15.3
Courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn.	5	12.8

The survey results show that the majority of tortoiseshell cats, totaling 14, are thought to have shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm personalities, representing 35.9%. According to the theory, the personality traits of orange cats are supposed to be courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn. In the survey, 5 cats matched this theory, representing 12.8%.

TABLE 8: THE PERSONALITIES OF TABBY CATS

Personalities	Number of cats	Percentage
Friendly, affectionate, calm, and trainable.	4	10.2
Shy, loyal, affectionate, kind, and calm.	5	12.8
Independent, unpredictable, and tolerant personalities towards people and other animals.	0	0
Strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and often vocal.	6	15.3
Stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners.	8	20.5
Courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn.	8	20.5

The survey results show that the majority of tabby cats, totaling 8, are believed to have stubborn, brave, confident, kind personalities and enjoy playing with their owners, representing 20.5%. Additionally, 8 cats are thought to have courageous, playful, friendly, active, exploratory, and occasionally stubborn personalities, representing 20.5%. According to the theory, the personality traits of tortoiseshell cats are supposed to be strong, lively, energetic, loving personalities towards their owners and often vocal, 6 cats matched this theory, representing 15.3%.

TABLE 9: THE SYSTEM YOU USE TO CARE FOR YOUR CAT

The system	Number of cats	Percentage
outdoor	193	64
indoor	107	36

The survey results show that there are 193 cats kept indoors, representing 64%, and 107 cats kept outdoors, representing 36%.

TABLE 10: HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY WITH YOUR CAT EACH DAY?

Hours	Number of people	Percentage
Less than 1 hour	81	27
1-3 hours	132	44
4-6 hours	46	15
More than 6 hours	41	14

The survey results show that there are 81 owners who play with their cats for less than 1 hour per day, representing 27%. There are 132 owners who play for 1-3 hours per day, representing 44%. There are 46 owners who play for 4-6 hours per day, representing 15%, and 41 owners who play for more than 6 hours per day, representing 14%.

TABLE 11: HAS YOUR CAT EVER EXPERIENCED A TRAUMATIC EVENT THAT CHANGED ITS PERSONALITIES?

Choice	Number of cats	Percentage
Never	258	86
Ever	42	14

The survey results show that there are 258 cats that have never experienced a traumatic event that changed its personality, representing 86%. There are 42 cats that have ever experienced a traumatic event that changed its personality, representing 14%.

TABLE 12: WHAT TRAUMATIC EVENT CAUSED YOUR CAT'S PERSONALITY TO CHANGE?

Traumatic event	Number of cats	Percentage
Being abused or attacked by a person or another animal	4	10
Moving to a new home	3	7
Changing owners	2	5
Losing a bonded cat or owner	3	7
A new family member joining the house	2	5
Being bullied by another cat	1	2
Experiencing an accident	3	7
Suffering from illness or chronic pain	2	5
Being left alone for long periods	3	7
Lack of socialization during kitten-hood	1	2
Being harshly punished repeatedly	2	5
Receiving consistent love and care	3	7
Giving birth or raising kittens	2	5
Experiencing loud noises or natural disasters	3	7
Growing older	2	5
Being spayed or neutered	4	10

The survey results show that the majority of cats, totaling 4, have been being abused or attacked by a person or another animal, representing 10%. Additionally, 4 cats have been being spayed or neutered, also representing 10%.

5. DISCUSSION

Based on a study of 300 cats, it was found that 19.7% of orange cats exhibited personality traits consistent with the theory, while 20% of white cats did, 18.5% of black cats, 15.3% of calico cats, 12.8% of tortoiseshell cats, and 15.3% of tabby cats. The reason most cats have personality traits that do not align with their coat color according to the theory is due to the system you use to care for your cat. In outdoor environments, cats are more likely to develop stubborn, playful, unpredictable, and aggressive traits compared to indoor cats. Additionally, the number of hours owners spend playing with

their cats each day affects their behavior. Cats whose owners play with them more tend to be friendlier, more obedient, and better bonded with their owners than those that receive less playtime. Furthermore, cats that have experienced traumatic events are more likely to exhibit fearful, paranoid, shy, and skittish behaviors compared to those that have not faced such events.

6. CONCLUSION

Based on a study of 300 cats using a questionnaire, it was found that 19.7% of orange cats exhibited personality traits consistent with the theory, 20% of white cats, 18.5% of black cats, 15.3% of calico cats, 12.8% of tortoiseshell cats, and 15.3% of tabby cats. Therefore, a cat's coat color cannot fully indicate its personality, as it also depends on the rearing system, the care it receives, and traumatic events that may cause changes in its personality.

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