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Cat paw pad color chart

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You may not have given much thought to the colors of your feline friend's paw pads, but they're quite fascinating! Typically, the color of the paw pads matches the cat's fur. For instance, white cats usually have pink paw pads, while ginger cats have pinkish-white ones. Black kitties typically have black paw pads, and gray cats have gray ones. Tuxedo cats can have a mix of colors or even pink, pinkish-white, black, or a combination. Cats with multiple coat colors, like Tortoiseshell or Calico, display unique color combinations on their paw pads. These adorable toes belong to Gilbert, a handsome tuxedo cat who's enjoying his new home! Paw pads are essentially the bottoms of our feet, serving as cushions to withstand abrasions from surfaces. They act as shields between the harsh environment and the delicate tissue of a cat's paw. Every cat has separate digital pads on their back paws (four) and front paws (five), along with a larger metacarpal/metatarsal pad that provides support, cushioning, and shock absorption. The front legs also have a carpal pad higher up that helps with traction, safe jumping, and slowing down. The colors of a cat's paw pads range from white to pink, black, gray, and spotted. They provide insulation against extreme temperatures, tactile information for sensing vibrations and surface textures, and even help detect predators or enemies approaching. If you notice any changes in the color of your cat's paw pads, it might indicate an underlying issue that needs attention. About Changes in Paw Pad Color Some changes in a cat's paw pad color can be caused by injuries. Injuries like insect and animal bites, overgrown claws, and cuts from sharp objects and rough surfaces can change the color of the paw pads to darker pink, red, purple, or black. Sometimes, other signs of injury, such as limping and excessive licking of the paw or foot, are present. The treatment depends on the type of injury affecting the paw pad. Anemia is another condition that can cause changes in a cat's paw pad color. Anemia occurs when there aren't enough red blood cells in the body. This can make the tongue and gums lighter or even white, and the cat may become lethargic, weak, and disinterested in food. The paw pads might also lighten to pink or white. Vitiligo is a rare condition that affects some cats as adults. It's when the skin on the paw pads loses its color. This can make dark-colored paw pads turn lighter, like lilac, pink, or white. But vitiligo isn't painful or unhealthy, and there's no need to treat it. Plasma cell pododermatitis is a rare condition that causes inflammation in the paw pads. It's when too many plasma cells gather in the foot pads without an infection causing them. Signs of this condition include mushy, swollen paw pads and a pillowy shape. The paw pads might also turn purplish, and the cat may be lame on that foot. Antibiotics are often prescribed by veterinarians to help get rid of this potentially painful condition. Some types of cancer can affect a cat's paw and foot pads. Melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma are common types that can appear as raised, colored masses on the paw pads or other parts of the foot. Cats may limp or lick their feet excessively if they have these conditions. It's important to schedule a checkup with a veterinarian if you suspect your cat has injured their foot and/or paw. Don't overlook unusual color or texture changes in your cat's paw pads - consult a vet ASAP! While a feline's paw pads should retain their natural hue throughout life, there are valid reasons why this might not always be the case. A veterinarian can help identify the underlying cause of any observed color changes and provide effective treatment. In some cases, these changes may even be reversible. On other occasions, they could signal health issues that would have gone unnoticed otherwise.