

Why do cats always land on their feet?

By

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Have you ever wondered how a cat manages to land on her feet when she falls? Cats can do this as a result of a righting reflex, along with having a very flexible spine. A part of the inner ear called the vestibular apparatus sends information to the cat's brain regarding body position in space, and the brain then directs movement to correct orientation as she falls, so she will land on her feet. This ability begins to appear at 3 weeks of age and is perfected by 6-7 weeks. Cats can do this righting reflex in the same amount of time as it takes to drop approximately two feet. This is very beneficial in preventing injury and is a useful skill in life threatening situations where cats may need to escape from predators or recover from misjudging a leap while hunting for prey.

