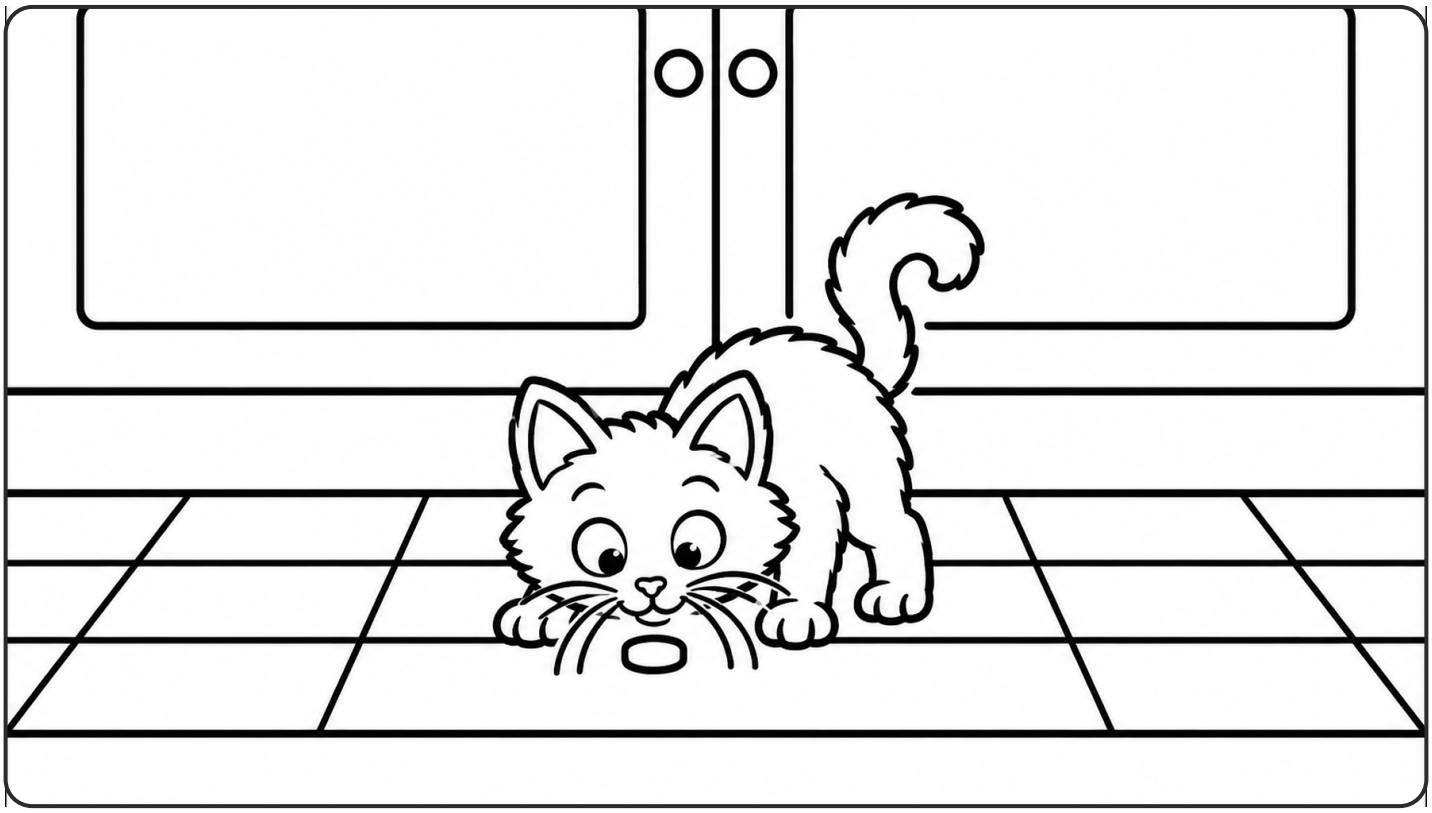
Why do cats and dogs have whiskers?

Look at Midnight's long whiskers! Why do cats and dogs have whiskers?



Why?

1. **Special hairs**
   Whiskers are not like other hairs. They are thicker and stiffer, and their roots go about three times deeper.
2. **Lots of nerves**
   Around each whisker root are lots of nerves. When a whisker moves, the nerves tell the brain: something is here!
3. **Feeling the air**
   When something moves close by, it makes the air move, too. The whiskers feel those tiny air moves. That helps in the dark.

Try it! Find the whiskers

You need: a cat or a dog

1. Look closely at a cat or a dog, without touching.
2. Can you find the whiskers above its eyes?

What happened? Never cut a cat's or a dog's whiskers.
They need them to feel the world around them.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/whiskers

scan with a grown-up