

Catsight

This is a scrying spell that takes advantage of a strange, and only half-understood, mental-spiritual gestalt that seems to exist among all domesticated cats. Simply put; when you get enough cats together within one area, they create a shared network that a trained mage can exploit. Put even more simply: a mage that casts this spell can freely look through the eyes of any and all cats within a mile of his location.

There are conditions. First off, a lot of what the mage can see depends on the cats in question. For regular, ordinary domestic cats, this means washed-out color and bad long-distance vision, but admittedly superior night vision. The mage can hear things, but he will only *understand* them precisely as well as the cat could; which is to say, not at all when it comes to actual language. The cat **is** aware of the interloper in its mind, and can dimly 'hear' commands given to it; fortunately, the spell effects are apparently pleasant, which means that the cat will typically be amiable towards the caster, and might even be persuaded to give a closer look at something. The cat will also be able to find the caster afterward, which is one

reason why many casters who use this spell regularly acquire a lot of strays.

There are definite advantages. First off, standard detection spells won't even notice that Catsight has been cast; second, anti-scrying spells won't bite on Catsight at all. With a little bit of practice the caster can scan through various cat's eyes very quickly, which can often lead to all sorts of extra information being gleaned. Further spell-casting is permitted, provided that the spell effects are a line-of-sight; spells cast that way are detected and resisted normally, but only once they're actually cast. And, oddly enough, joining the cats' shared gestalt is actually rather soothing, for humanoids. It's a lot simpler in there. Very grounding.

One last note: this spell works perfectly well on magical cats, supernatural cats, sapient domestic cats, and sentient felinoid races. It will *not* work on non-sapient lions or tigers, but **will** work on cheetahs. Note that an intelligent felinoid will be able to send back more information to the mage -- but will also not necessarily be as amiable about the entire process as a non-sapient domestic cat would be. The sapient will also be a lot better at tracking down the mage that borrowed its eyesight. Then again, sapient felinoids will find it fairly

easy to mentally communicate with a caster of Catsight, and there are a **lot** of advantages to having a trained mage along in your head when you're doing a job.

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