

NICK BRUEL

# BAD KITTY

WASH  
YOUR PAWS



This is how Kitty likes to clean her paws.

She licks them. That's what cats do.



She can do this all day.

LICK-LICK-LICKETY-LICK-  
LICK-LICK-LICK-LICK-LICK-  
LICK SPITTLE-LICK-LICK-  
LICK-LICKETYSPPLIT-LICK-  
LICORICE-LICK-LICK-LICK-  
LICK-LIECHTENSTEIN-LICK-  
LICK-LICK-ABRAHAM LICKIN-  
LICK-LICK-LICK-LICKETY-  
LICK-LICK-LICK-LICK-  
LICK-LICK-LICK-LICK-  
LICK-LICK-LICK-LICK-  
LICK-LICK-LICK-LICK-  
LICK-LICK-LICK-LICK-



OKAY, KITTY! WE GET IT!

Please stop.

LICK  
LICKETY  
LI...



I'm sorry, Kitty, but licking yourself is a terrible idea.

SNORT



You have to

**WASH YOUR  
PAWS!**



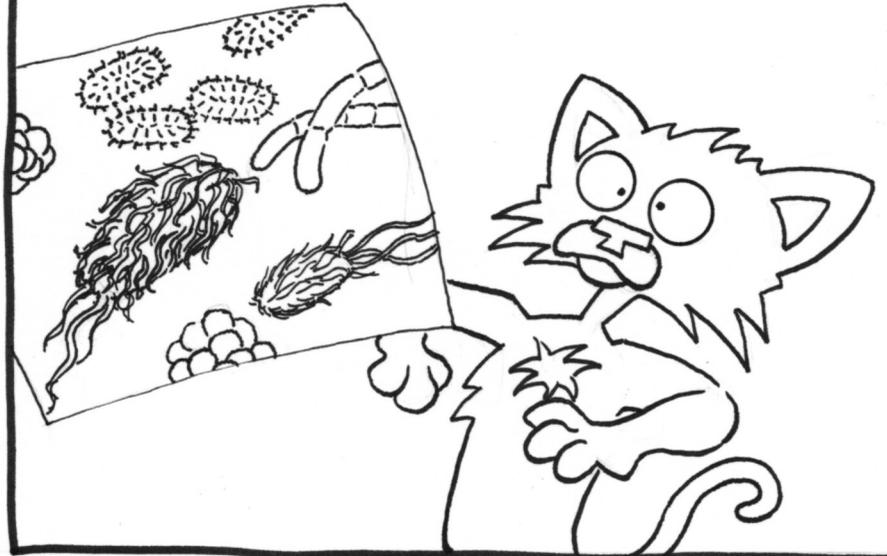
You don't want to get sick, do you?

Of course not.



I guess it's time for visuals.

Kitty, this is a picture of bacteria.



**HARUMPH!**

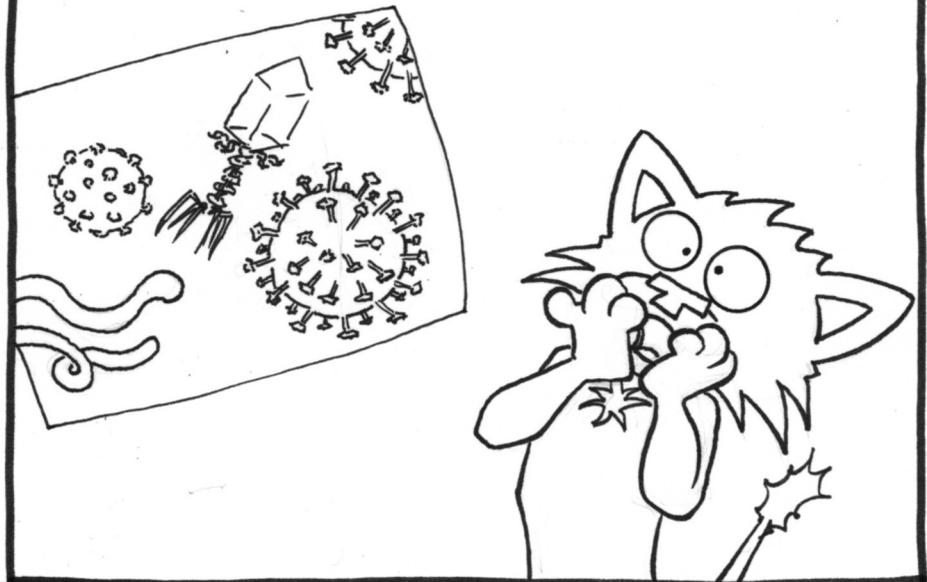


Well, one of the best ways to keep from getting sick is to

**WASH  
YOUR  
PAWS!**

I can tell you don't believe me.

And this is a picture of viruses. They both live on your body and can make you sick.



You can't see them, Kitty.

They're very tiny.



Even tinier.



Even tinier.

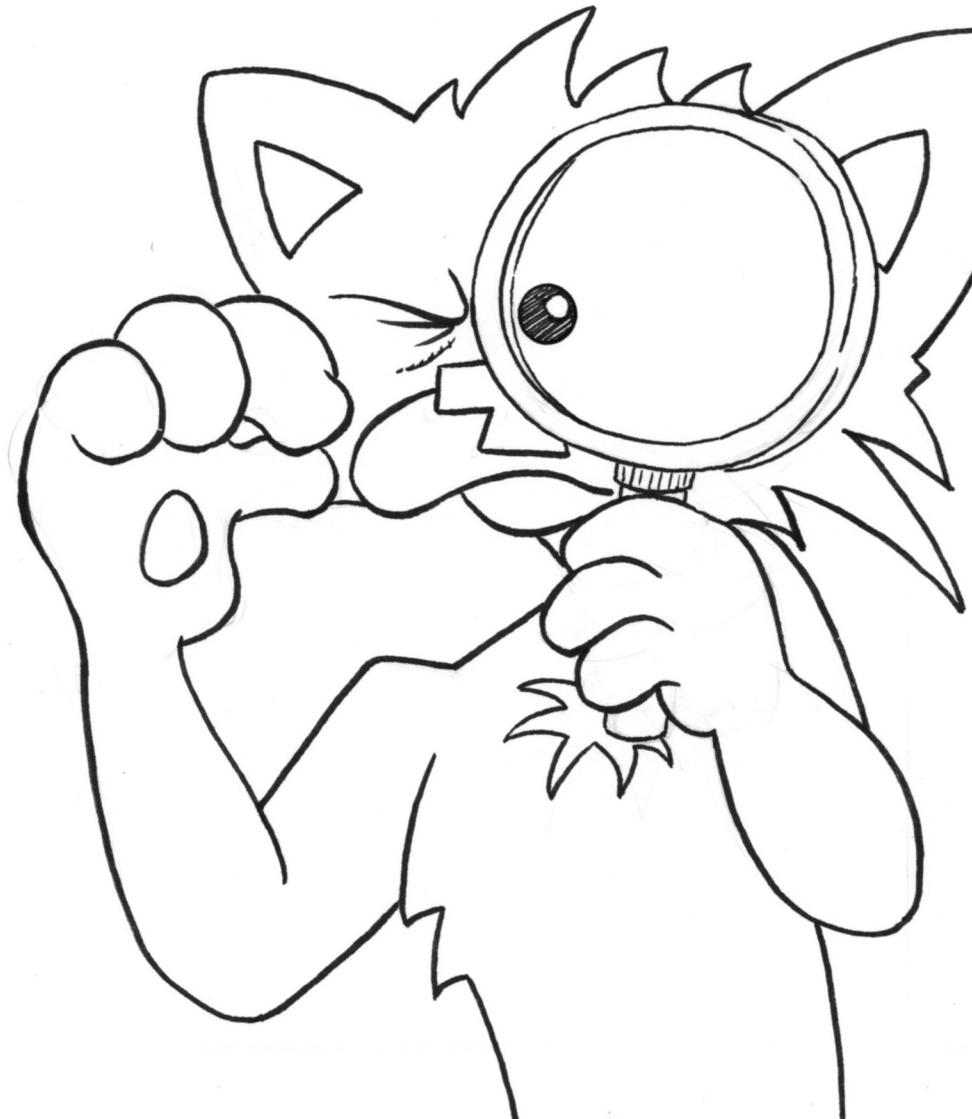


Even tinier.  
But you're getting close.



Because bacteria and viruses are so small, they're hard to study. But we do know something about them.

Let's ask good ol' UNCLE MURRAY!



# UNCLE MURRAY'S FUN FACTS

## WHAT ARE BACTERIA? WHAT ARE VIRUSES?



### What are bacteria?

Bacteria are tiny living organisms so small that a single bacterium can only be seen under a microscope. But bacteria can cluster together to form gigantic colonies that anyone can see.

Some bacteria eat food like we do. Some bacteria photosynthesize light and chemicals like plants do. All bacteria need water or moisture to live.

They can be found nearly everywhere on Earth—in the ground, in the deepest parts of the ocean, inside volcanoes, and even at the North Pole! They're in the air. They're in our water. They're on our bodies. In fact, we rely on bacteria to help us digest the food we eat. Many bacteria are useful to us.

### What are viruses?

A virus is about 100 times smaller than a bacterium. They're so



small that they can't be seen under most microscopes.

Viruses attach to other organisms, even bacteria, to make copies of themselves. If that organism can't get rid of all the viruses attached to it, the organism can become sick.



I think I used too much soap!



Bacteria and viruses that make us sick are called "pathogens." A less fancy word for them is "GERMS."

### What can I do to kill germs?

There are lots of things you can do. For starters, you can wash your clothes. You can wash your sheets. You can wash your body.

And you can **WASH YOUR PAWS!**

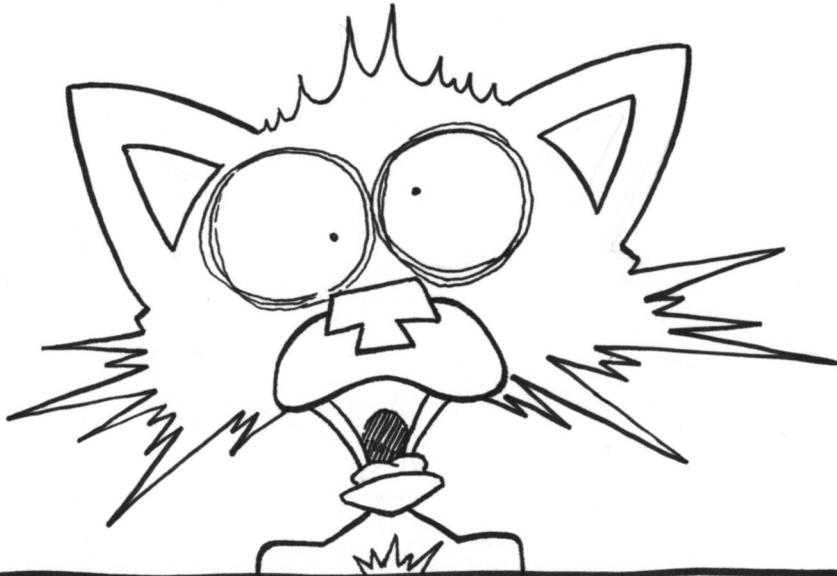


Oh, well!  
Better too much than too little!

I know bacteria and viruses sound scary, Kitty, but most of them are harmless. In fact, did you know that...



... there are over 40 TRILLION bacteria and viruses living on your body RIGHT NOW?!



**KITTY!**

IT'S OKAY!

TRY NOT TO FREAK OUT!



I know it's hard not to be scared of those things you can't see, Kitty.

I know it's hard not to be scared of those things you can't control, Kitty.

Try not to be scared. Okay?

You actually need some of those bacteria and viruses on your body to live. It's the bad ones—the germs—that you have to worry about. And to keep those bad germs off your body, one thing you can do is

## WASH YOUR PAWS!



So let's get started, Kitty. You don't need much— just water and soap.



See?! That's not so bad.  
This is a good start.



Not so fast, young lady!  
You need to use SOAP!



Soap is the most important part! Soap will  
literally break the germs apart and  
destroy them!



Don't  
forget to  
wash  
under your  
nails!

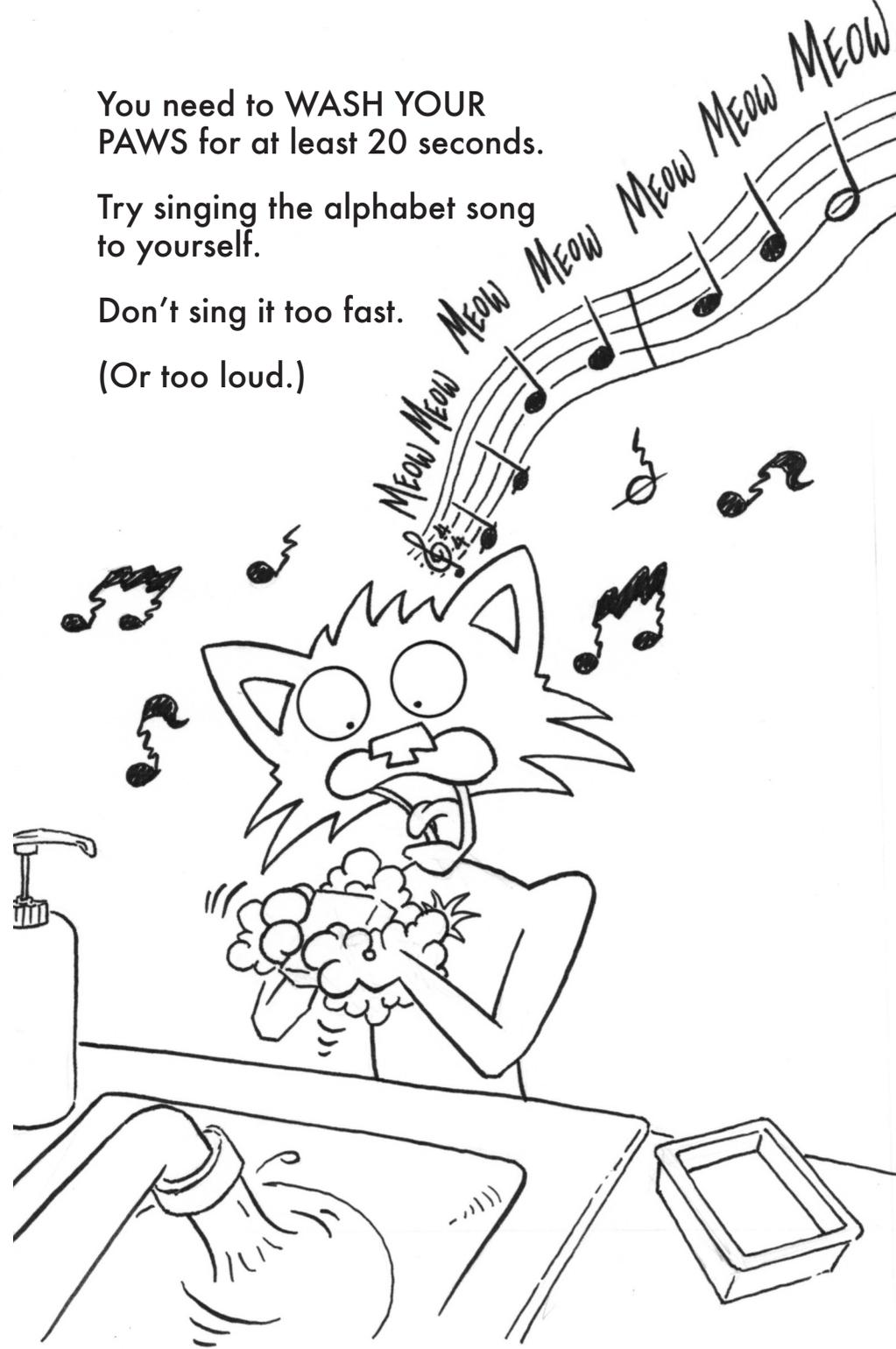
Sorry—  
claws.

You need to WASH YOUR  
PAWS for at least 20 seconds.

Try singing the alphabet song  
to yourself.

Don't sing it too fast.

(Or too loud.)



Okay, Kitty. Now it's time to dry. . .

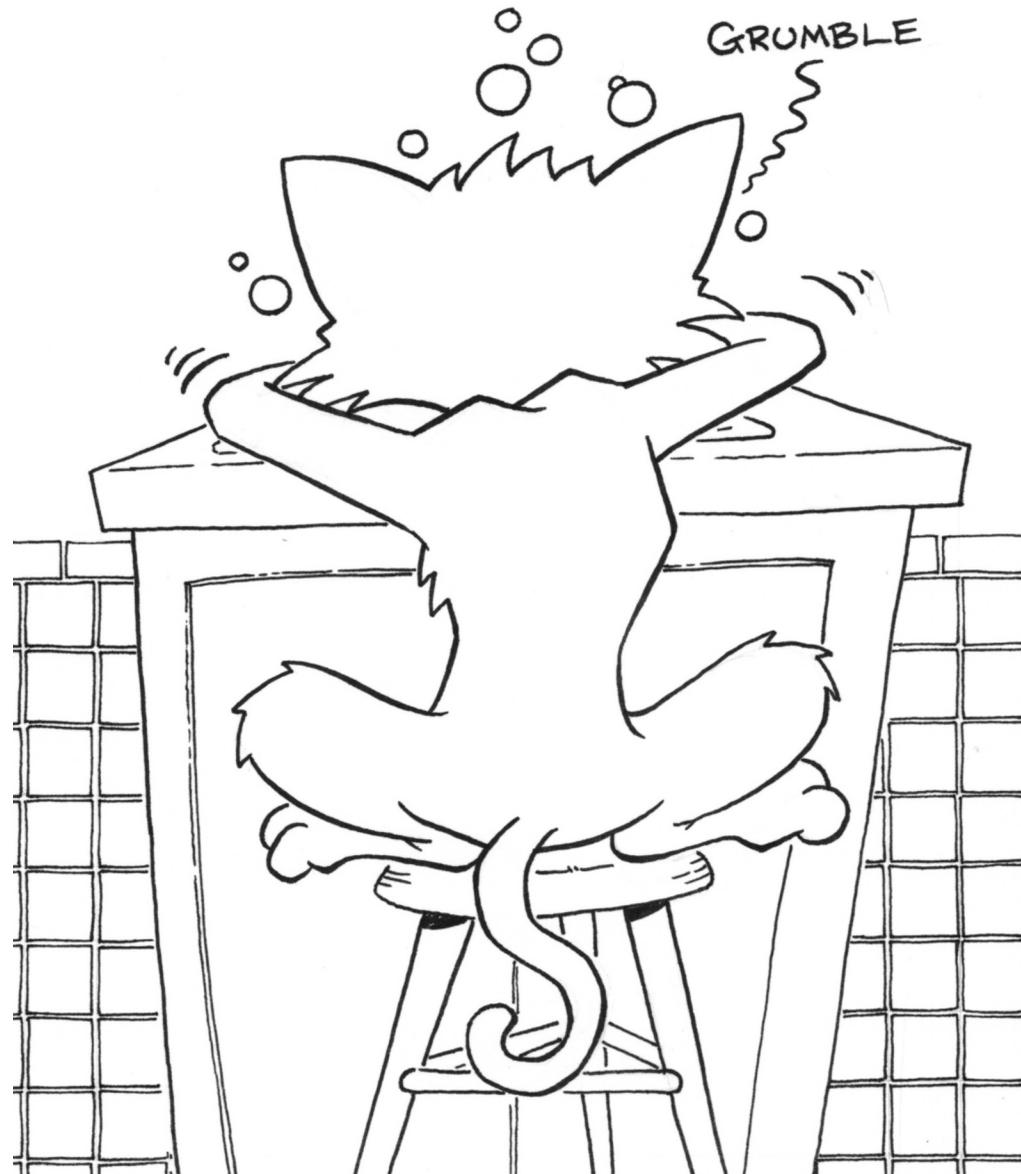


Good job covering your sneeze, Kitty. But now you have to wash your paws again.



Don't be cross, Kitty. You have to wash your paws many times a day.

We all do.



Here are the times you need to  
WASH YOUR PAWS:



After they get dirty.  
After you come home.



After you play.



Before and after  
you eat.



After you use the potty.



Right after you  
sneeze or blow  
your nose.

Right after you  
cough.

After touching an animal  
or pet.



Nice work, Kitty. Now you can dry your paws with this clean towel. I'm proud of you for washing them.



And I'm especially proud that for a little while there, you didn't care at all that

**CATS HATE WATER!**

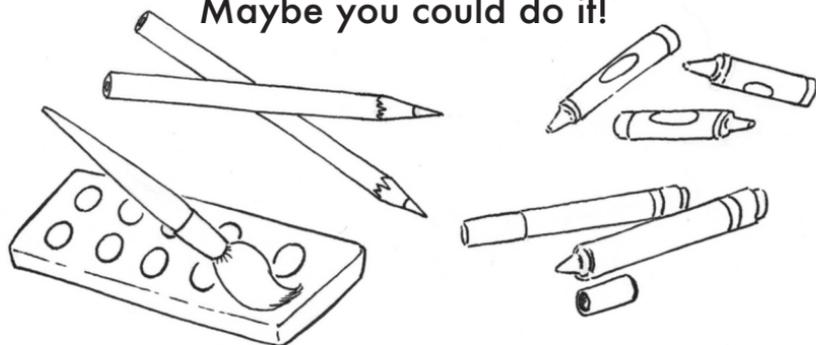


Oops.



This book has no color! Wouldn't it be nice if someone colored in the pages?

Maybe you could do it!



This book is dedicated to my friends and family at  
**MACMILLAN.**

Be well, be safe, and be happy.

Much thanks to Dr. Aris N. Economides for reviewing the scientific material in this book.

•••••

Copyright © 2020 by Nick Bruel  
Published by Roaring Brook Press  
Roaring Brook Press is a division of  
Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership  
120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271  
mackids.com  
All rights reserved



Our books may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at (800) 221-7945 ext. 5442 or by email at [MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com](mailto:MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com).

First edition, 2020

Book design by Nick Bruel

•••••

This book was designed for standard 8.5" x 11" paper. When printing this book, please set your printer to "Landscape" orientation and "Fit" for page sizing.