

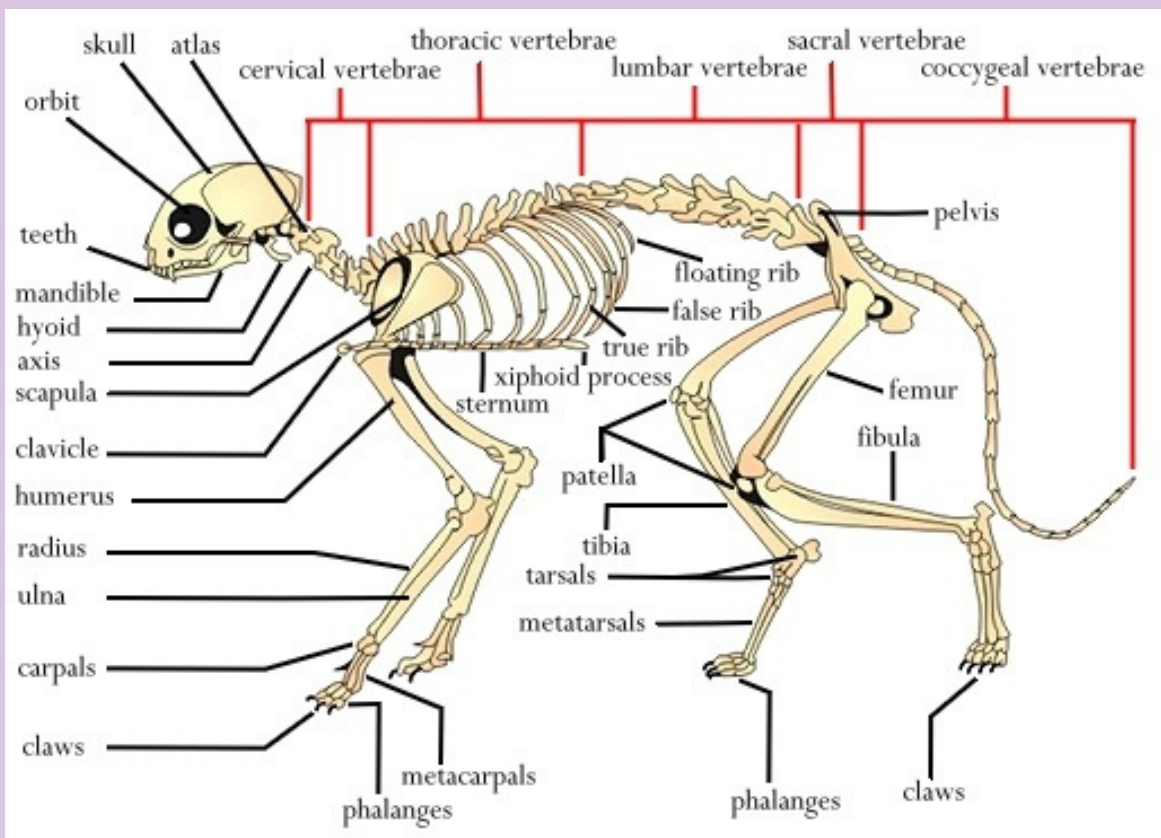


# Animal Working Group Newsletter

October 2023

## Feline Spinal Anatomy

- The feline vertebral column has seven (7) cervical, thirteen (13) thoracic, seven (7) lumbar, and three (3) fused sacral vertebrae.
- Most cats tend to have eighteen (18) coccygeal vertebrae, except for the Manx cat.
- Most Manx cats have a naturally occurring mutation of the spine.
- The mutation can result in tails that range from normal size to complete agenesis.
- “Manx syndrome” is when there is a shortened vertebral column that may result in damage to the spinal cord and potentially spina bifida.
- These types of disorders are usually associated with somatovisceral disease.
- All felines have free-floating clavicles, which allow them to squeeze through any space.



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