How to Draw a Sad Cat

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

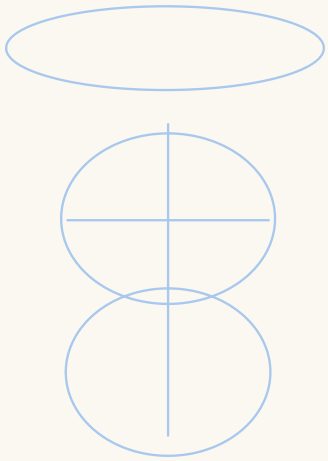
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Coloring pencils
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

Read the full tutorial online →

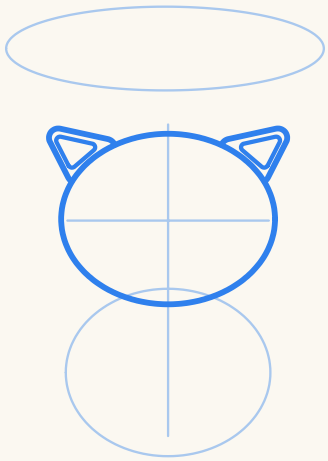
STEP 1 Sketch three guide ovals



Start with a wide oval near the middle of the page for the head. Right under it, touching it, draw a second oval about the same size for the body. Put a long, flat oval high above for the rain cloud. Add a line down through the cat and one across the head; I use that cross to center the face.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines; they're only scaffolding.

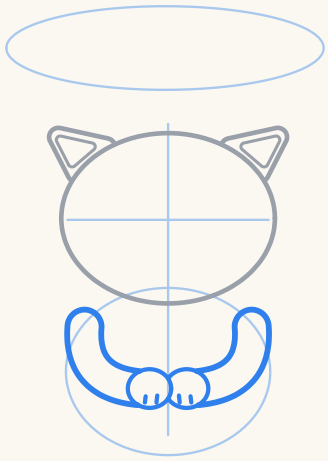
STEP 2 Outline the head and add droopy ears



Trace over the head oval with a firm, smooth line. Now the ears: instead of pointing them straight up, tip them outward so they hang toward the sides. Each ear is a rounded triangle sitting on the top corner of the head. Add a smaller triangle inside each. Ears that sag sideways are a quiet clue that this kitty is having a hard day.

💡 **Tip:** Compare both ears before moving on; if one tilts more, the cat looks puzzled instead of sad.

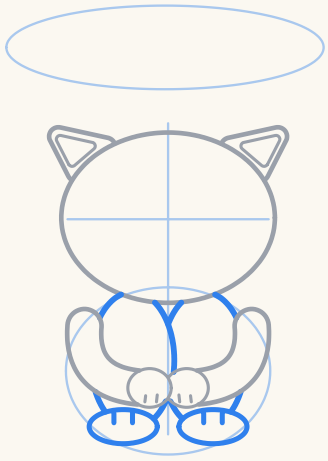
STEP 3 Wrap the arms around the knees



Below the head, draw two thick curved arms, like a pair of hooks. Each one starts at a shoulder on the side of the body oval, swings down, then curls in toward the middle. Where they meet, draw two round paws touching each other, with two tiny toe lines on each. I draw the arms first because they sit in front, so the knees can tuck in behind them.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both arms equally thick all the way around so they look soft.

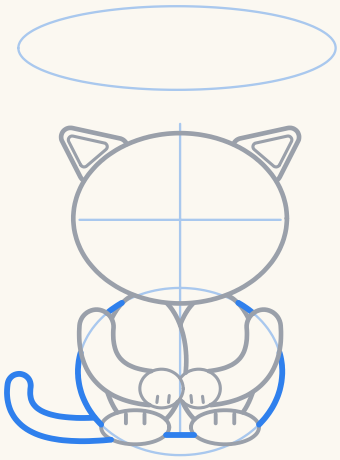
STEP 4 Tuck in the knees and feet



Draw two tall rounded shapes for the knees, rising from behind the arms up to just under the chin. They lean together in the middle, as if the kitten is squeezing them close. At the bottom, add two flat ovals for the feet, each with two short toe lines. Stop every line where it reaches the arms or feet.

💡 **Tip:** Let the tops of the knees touch the chin; a gap there makes the hug look loose.

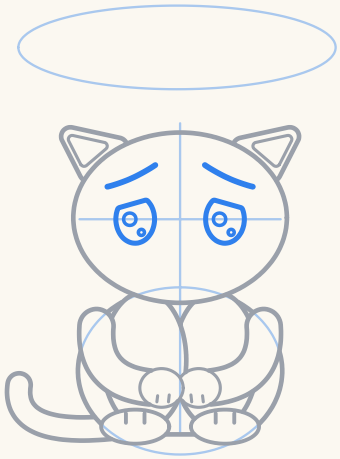
STEP 5 Draw the slumped back and tail



Follow the lower body oval around the outside of the arms and down to the ground on both sides. Only a thin curve shows, and those low shoulders are the slump. Then pull a thick tail out from behind the left foot, run it along the ground and let the tip curl up a little. A flat tail looks far gloomier than a raised one.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the tail as two parallel lines first, then round off the tip with one curve.

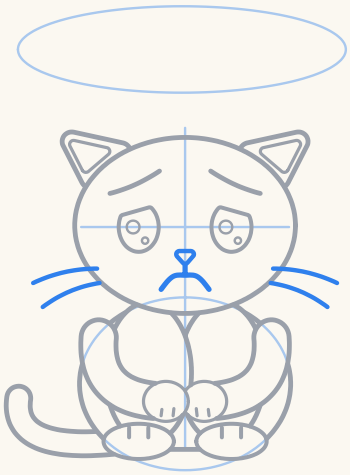
STEP 6 Give it sad eyebrows and droopy eyes



This step does most of the work. Draw two short brows above the eyes, each slanting upward toward the middle of the face, so the inner ends are higher than the outer ends. Under them, draw two tall ovals with the top corner sliced off at an angle; the cut should be higher near the nose and lower at the outside. Add one big and one tiny circle inside each eye for shine.

💡 **Tip:** Put both eye shines on the same side, as if the light comes from one window.

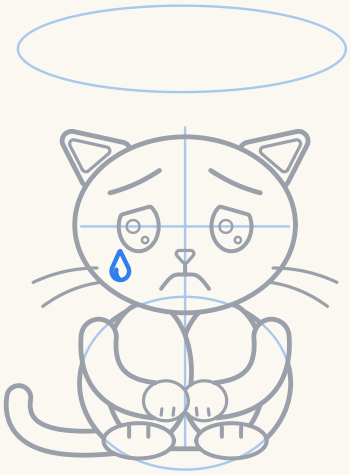
STEP 7 Add a nose, a wobbly frown and whiskers



Place a small rounded triangle for the nose between the eyes, just below the guide line. Drop a short line down from it, then draw the mouth as an upside-down U. I give it a slight wobble, because a shaky mouth looks like someone trying not to cry. Last, draw two whiskers on each cheek that bend downward at the ends.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the frown narrow, about the width of the nose plus a little on each side.

STEP 8 Let one big tear roll down



Under the eye on the left, draw a single teardrop: a round bottom with a point at the top, sitting on the cheek. Add a tiny curved line inside it for a glint. One large tear keeps the picture gentle instead of heartbreaking.

💡 **Tip:** Slightly fatter at the bottom than you think looks right; tears feel heavy.

STEP 9 Shape a little rain cloud



Over the flat guide oval, draw a row of bumps for the top of the cloud, biggest in the middle and smaller toward the ends. Give it a flat bottom with rounded corners. Then draw a gentle wavy line across the lower part of the cloud; the strip under it will be colored darker later.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bumps as separate arcs and join them; one long scribble rarely stays even.

STEP 10 Drop in raindrops and a puddle



Scatter seven small teardrops down both sides of the cat, staggered so they don't line up in neat rows. Under the cat, draw a wide, flat oval puddle that reaches past the tail. Inside its right half, add one small ring where a raindrop has just landed.

💡 **Tip:** Vary the height of the drops on each side so the rain looks like it's moving.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Go over every keeper line with your black marker: every outline on the kitten, the cloud and each drop. Give the ink a minute to dry, because a wet line smears under the eraser. Then rub out the guide ovals and the cross on the face.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the big outlines first and the tiny toe lines last, when your hand is steady.

STEP 12 Color it in cool, soft tones



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Color the kitten light purple, and use a slightly darker purple for the bit of back that peeks out. The ears and nose go pink, the eyes black with the shines left white. Make the cloud gray with a dark gray bottom strip, the tear and raindrops light blue, and the puddle pale blue. Cool colors like these keep the mood quiet.

💡 **Tip:** Color around the white eye shines first, then fill the rest of the eye.