

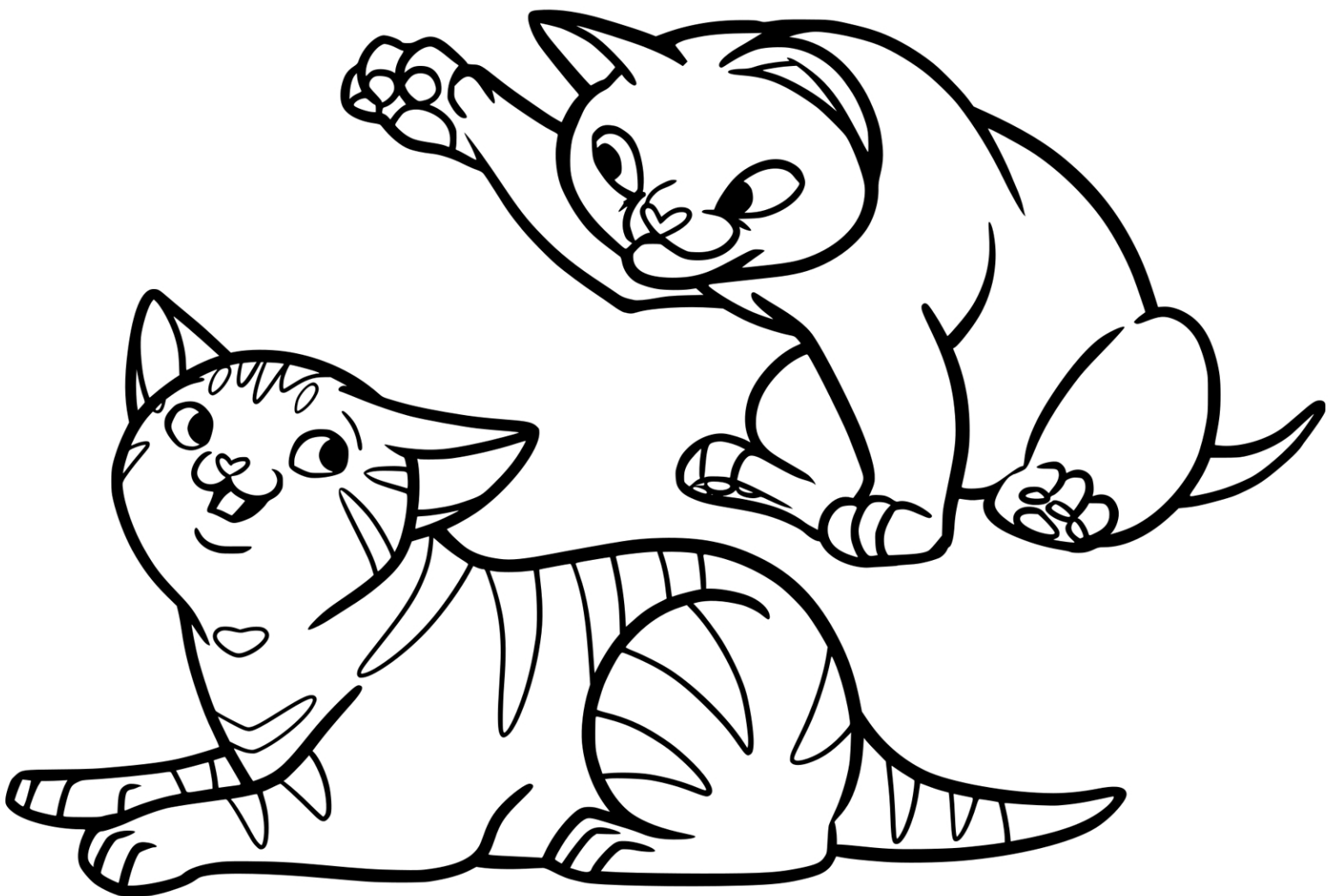
Pigments in fur seem like tricky subjects

But explaining Agouti need not be complex:

A cat that's agouti has bands of different color on each hair

A cat that's solid has only one color there!

The interaction of the Agouti and MC1R genes affects how pigments are deposited in the growing hairs of cats. In cats with the agouti variant, different pigments are deposited in the hair shaft during different parts of the growth cycle, producing banded hairs. In non-agouti cats, individual hairs remain one solid, uniform color. The agouti variant creates a "salt and pepper" appearance and allows tabby markings to be visible in cats that produce black pigment in their fur.



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