He’s the cat you don’t want snuggling up to you in bed.  
On the third floor of Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Providence, R.I., an olive brown-and-white feline named Oscar patrols the advanced dementia unit. Oscar is aloof. He is likely to hiss at a Steere resident—unless he somehow senses death is near. Then he’s purring loudly on the bed beside the unconscious patient during the final hours.  
His ability inspired geriatrician and assistant professor of medicine at Brown University David Dosa (Res ’03) to write about Oscar for the July 26 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. Oscar has predicted the deaths of more than 25 Steere residents, and his accuracy has prompted staff to summon family members when he settles in with a patient. He likes to stay on the bed for the final goodbyes. If forced out of the room, he will pace outside the door and yowl unhappily.  
A plaque dedicated to Oscar for his “compassionate hospice care” hangs on a wall at Steere House, where he passes it daily on his rounds.