First choose a base color and mix up about the equivalent of 2 bars of clay of this color. Divide it into 3 lumps.

Choose 3 accent colors to add to this base in order to change the color a bit for each cat. Add and mix to each of the 3 until you have 3 different colors for your cats.

Create a simple bullseye cane using the three colors. In this example, I used Cadmium yellow, Cadmium red, and Orange to tint my clay, so I used those same three colors to create the bullseye.

You do not need much. Reduce some of it very small. Pinch the other bit to create an elongated shape for the “stripes” on the cats.
Roll a ball of the first color and start elongating it into a teardrop. Not too far- the next step is to cut very thin pieces of your canes and place them onto the body of the cat BEFORE you really start to sculpt it, so you can press and smooth them in firmly to the body shape.

To make the cat shapes: Continue to elongate the shape, then use fingers to pinch in the neck area and form the head.

Gently coax the clay into the shape you want for the body and tail to curve. Do not just grab the clay and yank it into place because it could crack later. If you are gentle and keep pushing the clay into shape it will be better. If you want the cat to sit, place it bottom-down on the table top and create a flat part so it can bake in position and sit up later.

Use a tool to split the top of the head to make ears. Use your fingers to pinch the ears, and a bullet tip silicone tool to make the ear shapes have indentations. A small knitting needle is great for creating the eyes and nose- just little abstract dots to suggest a face.

Add eye screws for hanging if you are making beads. Make sure to pinch the clay around them so they will not fall out later.
If you want your cat shapes to relate to each other for a necklace or other art piece, work on them together so you can see their relative sizes, shapes, and positions.
Add little feet, use small amounts of clay or else it will look clunky. Use a tool to make little toes!

Bake! After your cats are baked, you can use embellishments like fabric and scrapbooking paints, beads, and crystals to add more decoration to the kitties.

Finally, use your jewelry tools and sari ribbon or chain to string everything together to make a frolicking cats necklace.