



FELINE GROOMING TIPS

There's no doubt that kitties are extremely fastidious. Every day, your furry feline family member spends a lot of waking time sprucing up with his or her built-in grooming tools (tongue and teeth). But regardless of all this regular cleaning, kitties do need supplemental grooming.

It's a good idea to brush your kitty at least a few times a week. Brushing will remove dander and dead or loose hair that your kitty would otherwise swallow, which can lead to hairballs. It also encourages circulation and will help distribute oils throughout your kitty's skin and fur.

Use soft, gentle strokes while brushing. If your kitty is new to brushing, or doesn't seem to enjoy it much, start with very short sessions (just a minute or two), gently brushing the places your kitty most enjoys being petted. You may want to keep your kitty's favorite treats on hand so the brushing is associated with something pleasant. Over time, gently brush new areas and increase the grooming time. Always brush the chest and belly especially gently.

Small mats in your kitty's fur should be slowly and gently combed out with a large-toothed metal comb. Be careful not to pull on the mat, which can be very painful for your kitty. If needed, use blunt-tipped scissors to trim small mats. (Be careful—don't cut too close to the skin!) Large mats should be left for a professional groomer or your veterinarian, as they may require cuts closer to the skin or to be shaved.

When you see a lot of dander or loose fur, your instinct may be to bathe your cat. However, bathing your cat may make the problem worse, as it removes necessary oils from the skin and fur. Your best bet is to maintain a regular brushing routine to keep excess dander and fur under control.

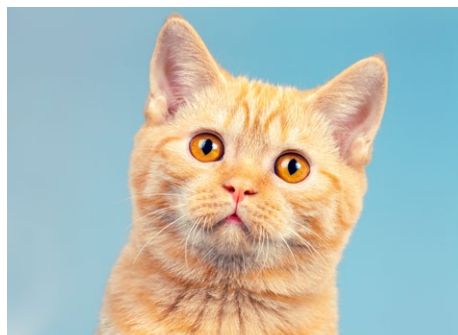
But if your kitty ends up covered in something sticky, smelly, or toxic, a bath becomes a necessity. Some kitties do better than others when being bathed. If you'd like to bathe your kitty at home, please ask us for instructions and non-toxic product recommendations so we can help make the experience as stress-free as possible for you both. We're also happy to give your kitty a bath at our office.

Excessive matting and dander can be signs of metabolic disease. If you notice this, we recommend that your kitty come in for an examination by your veterinarian and have applicable lab tests performed.

Your kitty's nails should be trimmed regularly. Use a special nail trimmer designed for pets (ask us for more info if you don't own one). If you've never trimmed your kitty's nails before, we're happy to give you a lesson, as it's important not to cut the nail too high. Some kitties just don't enjoy having their feet touched, so we're happy to take care of the nail trimming for you.

During your kitty's regular wellness exam, his or her eyes and ears will be examined (and cleaned if necessary) by your veterinarian. If ongoing eye or ear cleaning is needed to maintain health, we'll provide you with instructions and supplies.

We're always happy to take care of your kitty's grooming needs, whether brushing, bathing, nail trimming, or shaving.



NATIONAL CHECK THE CHIP DAY

Monday, August 15 is National Check the Chip Day. This nationwide campaign, developed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), was established to remind people to have their pets microchipped and to make sure the chip's registration details are up to date.

Why is microchipping important? Unfortunately, no matter how careful you may be, sometimes pets get lost. Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost during their lifetime, and only 2 out of 100 lost, unidentified cats will find their way back home again. A microchip is a safe, effective, and invaluable tool that could help identify your cat should he or she ever go missing.

If your pet isn't already microchipped, please make an appointment with us (and be sure to immediately register the microchip afterwards). If your pet is already microchipped, check his or her registration information in the microchip manufacturer's database to make sure it's up-to-date. (If you're not sure of your pet's microchip number, which you'll need, we will scan your pet for a microchip during his or her next visit to our office.)

For more information about microchipping, please stop by our front desk.



AUGUST SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through August 31, **receive free trial samples of hairball remedies** when you bring your kitty in for a wellness exam!

Please stop by our front desk for more information.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

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