



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7 • JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

FELINE GROOMING

There's no doubt that kitties are extremely fastidious. Each day, they spend much of their waking time grooming themselves. However, regardless of coat type or length, kitties also need supplemental grooming.

Begin by brushing or combing your kitty at least a few times a week (or daily, if your kitty has a lot of fur). This will remove dead or loose hair that your kitty would otherwise swallow, along with dander. Brushing also encourages circulation and will help distribute oils throughout the 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 touched. You may also want to keep your kitty's favorite treats on hand so that 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. 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 shaving.

Excessive matting and dander can be signs of metabolic disease. If your kitty is experiencing this, we recommend that your kitty be examined by your veterinarian and have applicable lab tests performed.

Nails should be regularly trimmed. Use a special nail trimmer designed for pets (ask us for more information if you don't currently have 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 too high on the nail. Some kitties just don't enjoy having their feet touched, and in these circumstances, we're happy to take care of the nail trimming.

Eyes and ears will be examined by your veterinarian during your kitty's regular wellness exam and will be cleaned if necessary. If ongoing eye or ear cleaning is needed to maintain health and help prevent infection, we will provide you with instructions as well as necessary supplies.

In general, good grooming habits can help alleviate the symptoms of dry skin. When you spot dander or loose fur, your instinct may be to bathe your cat. However, bathing your cat may actually make the problem worse, as it will remove oils from the skin and fur. The best bet is to regularly brush your kitty to remove loose hair and dander.



But if your kitty ends up covered in something sticky, smelly, or toxic, a bath is 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 so we can help make the experience as stress-free as possible for you both.

We're always happy to take care of any of your kitty's grooming needs, whether brushing, nail trimming, shaving, or bathing. Please see our great special offers below!

PROTECT YOUR KITTY FROM HEARTWORM DISEASE

Hot summer days are here again—and so are the mosquitoes. These pests aren't just annoying; they are also carriers of heartworm disease, which can affect both dogs and cats.

Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquito bites; even indoor kitties are at risk of infection. Fortunately, there are a number of simple ways to protect your kitty. If your kitty is not already taking monthly heartworm preventative, please talk with us about which medication is best for him or her.

JULY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through July 31 at the Sacramento Cat Hospital, **receive 10% off all grooming services, and \$25 off metabolic testing!**

Please ask us for more information or to schedule your appointment.

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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