

# why is grooming important?

*The world of grooming, the essential tools and how to use them??*



Regular grooming is essential for your cat's health. A glossy, beautiful coat is a sign of your cats' overall health and wellbeing. It not only helps your cat to look its best, but also helps to avoid more complicated problems like parasites and skin diseases. Most cats need a little help with their grooming, particularly with their eyes and ears and helping to avoid matted hair and fur balls.

## Shedding

Hairballs are common, especially in long haired cats. To minimise hairballs, brush your cat regularly and offer a commercial hairball control formula as a treat.

## Coat Length

Whether pure bred or mixed breed, a key to good grooming lies in the length of the coat. A cat with a very short single coat, similar to the Siamese and Burmese, needs very little grooming. Dense coated shorthairs like British Shorthairs and Exotics require a monthly grooming session. Semi longhaired cats, such as Maine Coons, should be combed and bathed more regularly. Cats with long, flowing coats, like Persians, should be combed and have their faces cleaned at

least every other day, and they should be bathed every 1 to 2 weeks.

## Essential Grooming Tools and their Uses

\* 7 1/2 inch Greyhound comb with wide/narrow teeth. Use the wide side of the teeth for basic combing- Comb all the way down to the skin and never tug and pull. Instead use gentle strokes to pull and dematt a knot. Use this comb over the entire body and ruff. Treat the tail as gold and comb it with extra care. Always only use the wide teeth end on the tail- never use the narrow side on the tail! You can use the side of the comb with the smaller teeth for the butt area and leg undersides.

\* A very fine tooth small comb is needed for the face and the bottom of the feet. When shopping this comb is sometimes called a flea comb. Use this comb to help comb gunk and loose fur from the face and eyes. Never use this comb on the body!

\* A pin brush is wonderful for picking up the coat. Make sure you do not buy one with end tips. . .those little round tipped ends actually will pull the coat. Your goal is to lift the coat, not remove it.

\* A soft slicker brush will help remove the dead coat while not stripping the live coat. If you are showing- use this brush during the bath drying process to help remove kitten coat and allow the adult coat to grow in faster - stronger- and with more length.

\* Don't forget a set of nail clippers. Simply hold the kitties paw- express the nail outward and clip the clear part of the nail with the scissors. Never clip the white part- this is the quick and will bleed.

## Eye Care

Short nosed breeds, such as Persians, require frequent eye care. The large eyes and small distance from the tear ducts to the nose in these type of Cats create an area for more tearing to occur than usual. Rather than pooling into tear ducts, the tears spill over, staining the area below the eyes. This must be cleaned regularly to keep the area healthy and the cat comfortable. To clean the ears use a soft washcloth dipped in tepid water. Hold your cat's head gently and wipe the damp cloth across her lower eyelid. Be careful not to rub the eyeball directly.