

How often should I brush and bathe my cat?

Cats are very proper animals, but even the cleanest cat can sometimes need your help a little with their grooming. Especially when the cat has long hairs, it can be beneficial when you help them a little. It also will improve your bond with your cat.

It is a good idea to train your cat from a young age that brushing and combing is part of the routine. This can be done daily or a couple of days a week. It will help to avoid nasty knots and will help to remove the dead hairs from the fur. This will not only help the fur stay clean and healthy, it will also help to prevent forming of hairballs. You can also check for fleas, as they are a source of allergies!

How often should you brush/comb your cat?

Long-haired cats should be brushed every day, or at least a couple of days a week. Short-haired cats only need a brush once a week.

What do I need?

There are especially designed combs and brushes for long-haired cats. If your cat has short hairs, a rubber/soft brush is all you need.

How to brush

Most cats really love it when you brush them, if your cat does not want to be brushed, let it go, and try again later. If there are too many knots already, it might be wise to let it be groomed by a professional groomer. After this, it will be easier for you to brush your cat and you can start to get it in the routine of brushing without needing a lot of time in the beginning. The cat also learns that if there are no knots, brushing is a nice experience.

When to Bathe my cat?

Short haired cats do not need a bath, unless they are very dirty or have an allergy or on prescription of a veterinarian to get rid of ecto-parasites.

Long haired cats do need a bath every now and then to keep their fur in a good condition and avoid too many grease forming in the fur. For this there are special shampoos for cats. Do not use human shampoo, as they often contain particles that can trigger irritation of the cat's skin.

So how can I tell when to bathe?

If the coat is discolored, smelly or oily despite a thorough brushing.

Be prepared....

Most cats do not like to get wet, but if you are well prepared, the bathing-time can be as short as possible and as little stress-full for you and your cat as possible. If needed ask somebody to hold the cat while you shampoo and wash it.

First brush the cat, so all knots are gone, this way the knots do not shrink while they are wet and be uncomfortable for your cat.

If you wash your cat in the bath-tub, make sure the water is already in there, so there is less sounds and movement when you bathe your cat. This can be stress-full. Fill the bath just so the water reaches your cat's belly and make sure it is not too hot! better to use hand-warm water.

When ready for the bath, get the cat in the bath-room and lock the door, so it cannot escape and run into the living room or bed room wet and full of soap!

Put some cotton into the ears of your cat, this will keep the water out of it's ears. Place the cat in the bath tub and gently pour some water over it's back, never straight away over the head. Keep physical contact and talk to your cat to sooth it. If your cat is nervous, she might start meowing, do not worry about it too much, it is normal and will stop after the bath.

Massage the shampoo gently into the fur, be extra careful around the head (ears, mouth, eyes). Gently rinse the fur thoroughly, as soap that stays in the fur may irritate the skin. If you use the shower, make sure the water is hand-warm and keep it close to the skin, so there is not a lot of splashing and noise.

Drying your cat

As soon as the cat is ready to leave the water, roll it into a towel and rub gently until it is dry. Do not forget to remove the cotton from your cat's ears after you are done with the water!

When your cat has long hair, it is very important not to create new knots! If you are not be able to dry it's fur completely, make sure your cat is dry before you get her in a cool room or outside. Preferably do not use a hairdryer, unless you know how to use it without burning your lovely cat's skin!

Cutting nails

Cutting nails is not always as easy as it seems! If your cat get's used to it, it will give less stress. But do not cut them too short, as they will bleed and get a trauma from it! Use the right scissors for it, the right technique and you will be fine. Better to cut little bits a bit more often, than once too much!