

What A Pretty Kitty!

Your feline will look (and feel!) like the cat's meow after a good grooming session.

By nature, cats are extremely fastidious. You've no doubt watched your kitty washing herself several times a day. For the most part she can take care of herself very well, thank you, but sometimes she'll need a little help from you.

MAKE GROOMING AS ENJOYABLE AS POSSIBLE—FOR THE BOTH OF YOU!

Grooming sessions should be fun for the both of you, so be sure to schedule them when your cat's relaxed, perhaps after exercise or eating. You want your pet to remember grooming sessions in a positive way, so you never want to risk losing your temper. If you've had a stressful day or are in a bad mood, it's probably not a good time to groom your cat.

Keep your first grooming sessions short—just 5 to 10 minutes. Gradually lengthen the time until your pet is used to the routine. You should also get your pet used to being handled. Get in the habit of petting every single part of your cat—including ears, tail, belly and back—and especially the feet!

And keep in mind, a little patience can go a long way. If your cat is extremely stressed out, cut the session short and try again when she's calmer. Unfortunately, most cats do not like baths, so you may need another person to help. And remember to pile on the praise and offer her a treat when the session is over.

BRUSHING

Regular sessions with a brush or comb will help keep your pet's hair in good condition by removing dirt, spreading natural oils throughout her coat, preventing tangles and keeping her skin clean and irritant-free.

If your cat has short hair, you only need to brush once a week:

- First, use a metal comb and work through her fur from head to tail.
- Next, use a bristle or rubber brush to remove dead and loose hair.
- Be extra-gentle near her chest and belly.

If your cat has long hair, you will need to brush every day:

- Start by combing her belly and legs; be sure to untangle any knots.
- Next, brush her fur in an upward motion with a bristle or rubber brush.
- To brush her tail, make a part down the middle and brush the fur out on either side.

BATHING

If your cat's coat becomes greasy and oily, or if she's gotten into something sticky or smelly, she'll benefit from a bath. Use a mild shampoo that's safe to use on cats, and follow these easy steps:

- First, give your pet a good brushing to remove all dead hair and mats.
- Place a rubber bath mat in a sink or tub to provide secure footing.
- Put your cat in a tub or sink that has been filled with about 3 to 4 inches of lukewarm water.
- Use a spray hose to thoroughly wet your pet, taking care not to spray directly in her ears, eyes or nose. If you don't have a spray hose, a large plastic pitcher or unbreakable cup will do.
- Gently massage in shampoo, working from head to tail.
- Thoroughly rinse with a spray hose or pitcher; again, avoid the ears, eyes and nose
- Dry your pet with a large towel.

NAIL CLIPPING

Most people really don't handle their cats' feet until they are about to clip the nails and then...watch out! Some animals can get very upset at this totally foreign feeling. That's why it's a good idea to get your cat used to having her feet touched before you attempt a nail trim. Rub your hand up and down her leg and then gently press each individual toe—and be sure to give her lots of praise and some food treats as you do this. Every animal is different, but chances are that within a week or two of daily foot massage, your cat will accept nail clipping with too much fuss. Here's how to do it:

- Begin by applying gentle pressure to the top of the foot and cushiony pad underneath—this will cause her to extend her claws.
- Use sharp, high-quality cat nail scissors to cut off the white tip of each nail, just before the point where it begins to curl.
- Take care to avoid the quick, a vein that runs into the nail. This pink area can be seen through the nail.
- If you do accidentally cut into this pink area, it may bleed, in which case you can apply some styptic powder to stop the bleeding.

TOP 10 TIPS FOR A LIFETIME OF GOOD HEALTH FOR YOUR PET

1. SPAY OR NEUTER

Talk about preventive medicine! Removing the ovaries and uterus of a female dog or cat—otherwise known as spaying—helps prevent breast cancer and pyometra, or infection of the uterus, and stops the animal from going into heat. (Female cats, by the way, can go into heat every 3 weeks!) And ASPCA experts believe that many aggressive behavior problems can be avoided by neutering a male, or removing the testicles, by the age of six months. The surgery also prevents testicular cancer, prostate disease and hernias. [More...](#)

2. VACCINATE

When your pet was born, he received protection from many diseases from antibodies passed in his mother's milk. These antibodies dissipated by the time he was about three months old, leaving his immune system vulnerable. That's where you come in. The ASPCA recommends that cats receive a three-in-one vaccine that protects against feline calicivirus, rhinotracheitis and panleukopenia, as well as a rabies vaccination. Ask your vet if vaccinations for feline leukemia, chlamydia, feline infectious peritonitis and ringworm are recommended for your kitty. Dogs should receive a five-in-one vaccine against several infectious diseases, including distemper, leptospirosis and parvovirus, as well as a rabies vaccination. Ask the vet if vaccinations for kennel cough and Lyme disease are recommended for your dog.

3. SEE YOUR VET!

You go to the doctor regularly—and so should your pet. Annual checkups give your veterinarian the chance to notice any developing illness and take care of it right away. Your vet will want to know about your pet's behavior, eating and exercise habits, and will check her temperature, pulse and respiratory rate. The doctor will also inspect her gums and teeth, heart and lungs, and assess the health of her internal organs. If it's been a year or more since your pet has seen a vet, make that appointment today!

4. FIGHT FLEAS

But do it safely, please! These little pests can cause big problems for your pets, including skin disease, anemia, scratching, allergies and tapeworms. There are many products available to help you control the fleas on your pet and in your home, but it's of utmost importance that whatever you use is approved for use on your pet's species. In other words, don't use products for dogs on your cat, and vice versa. Cats especially are extremely sensitive to insecticides, and many pets die annually from improper use of flea control products. Ask your vet for a recommendation, and don't forget—when fighting fleas, you'll need to treat ALL the pets in the household, not just those who are obviously infested.

5. PREVENT HEARTWORM

It's difficult to treat and sometimes fatal, but heartworm infection is easily prevented. Your dog should be given a blood test for heartworm every year in the early spring, and your veterinarian may prescribe a preventive tablet to be given once a month throughout mosquito season. (Some vets may recommend the medication year-round.) Although dogs are natural hosts for heartworm, cats can also contract this disease, transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Talk to your vet if you think your kitty is at risk.

6. GET MOVING

Not only will daily exercise keep your pet physically fit and mentally healthy, it helps channel aggressive and destructive behavior. Regular activity also burns up calories and increases muscle mass and cardiovascular strength. When it comes to canines, individual exercise needs vary based on breed, sex, age and level of health, but a couple of walks around the block every day is probably not enough—especially if your pooch is an adolescent or a member of the sporting, herding, hound or terrier breeds. And if your cat has fallen into bad exercise habits (i.e. sure, she can run—to her food dish!), you will have to engage her in supervised fun and games. Always start slow, though, and limit beginning sessions to five minutes or so.

7. BATTLE THE BULGE

Not enough exercise and too much food will cause any animal to gain weight—especially pets, who rely on you to regulate nutrition and activity levels. Excess flesh can cause health problems, including arthritis and liver and heart disease. Overweight pets face increased risk during surgery, and really fat cats can get a form of diabetes. What's the best way to tip the scales in your pet's favor? Gradually decrease her food intake while increasing her activity level. You can switch to a reduced calorie food or make a cutback in the portion size of her regular food. We recommend a gradual reduction of 10 to 25 percent for cats, and 25 to 33 percent for dogs—but it's always a good idea to check with your pet's vet first. [More...](#)

8. DO A WEEKLY HEALTH CHECK

Regular home checkups are a great way to nip potential health problems in the bud. Plus, they're as easy as one, two, three: 1.) Check under your pet's fur for lumps, bumps, flakes or scabs. 2.) Check your pet's ears and eyes for any signs of redness or discharge. 3.) Make note of any changes in her eating or drinking habits. If something seems off, call the vet.

9. MEMORIZE OUR LIST OF FOODS TO AVOID

Our experts at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center urge you to avoid feeding the following foods to your pet: Alcoholic beverages, avocado, chocolate, coffee, fatty foods, macadamia nuts, moldy or spoiled foods, onions and onion powder, raisins and grapes, salt, yeast dough, garlic, and products sweetened with xylitol.

10. DON'T FORGET YOUR PET'S TEETH

Does your pet have morning breath—all day long? This is a major indicator that your pet is in need of dental care. Particles of food, saliva and bacteria—what's commonly called "plaque"—can build up on the teeth and gums and cause infection. If left untreated, infection can result in tooth decay—and even move into the bloodstream and affect your pet's heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, bones and joints! Check your animal companion's teeth and gums at least once a week, and ask your vet how you can further prevent gum disease by regular brushing with a toothpaste formulated especially for your pet's species.

SPOTLIGHT ON:



#251 Dixie-Sponsored

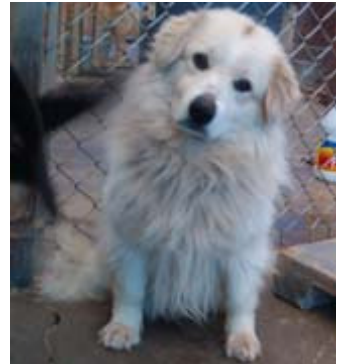
Tabby - Grey

"Hello. My name is Dixie and I'm a playful little kitty who came out to the shelter on March 9th. I'm only about seven or eight months old and I'd love to have a home of my own where I can run and play and be a silly kitty, instead of being cramped up in this little kennel. If you'd like to adopt me, well then come on out!" Thank you to an anonymous donor, who sponsored a portion of Dixie's adoption fee. Now she can go home at a reduced rate!

#246 Teddy-Sponsored

Spitz Mix

"My name is Teddy Bear and you can probably see why if you'll look at my pictures. I'm a cuddly guy who likes to snuggle. Patty and I came here in late March because we were homeless and had been hanging around down by Crooked Creek Road for about three weeks. The people there thought we'd be better off at the shelter so they can find us new homes. If you'd like to adopt me, I'd sure like to go home with you!" Thank you to Libba Hughes, and Mary Veech who sponsored a portion of Teddy's adoption fee. Now he can go home at a reduced rate!



#270 Rocky-Declawed

Tabby - Brown

"Okay, folks, for those of you looking for a declawed kitty, you have come to the right place! My name is Rocky and I'm a gorgeous tabby boy who has already been declawed, so you won't have to worry about me tearing up your furniture or anything. I'm a sweet guy who is looking for a new home. If you're interested, come on out to the shelter and visit with me."

#25 Chipper

Beagle

"My name is Chipper and I came to the shelter with Peppy, a beagle buddy of mine. There was another one, but he was hit by a car and didn't make it. It was really sad, and I'm glad that the other two of us made it out safe. We just love each other and we keep each other company here in the kennel that we're sharing. I hope you'll consider adopting one of us, or you could adopt us both! The shelter gives discounts for multiple adoptions, so you could take us both home!"



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Spring is a time of renewed life. As the weather warms and flowers begin to bloom, nature's yearly cycle of rebirth begins. This is the time when animals who have made it through the winter begin giving birth to their young, nursing and caring for them so that their species can survive and flourish. But not every animal who is born during spring receives the care and nurturing they deserve. In fact, the sad truth is that in many ways nature is a better provider for animals in the wild than people are for the animals in their homes.

In February the Anderson Humane Society held its 2nd annual Spay Day USA event. This is the time each year that we encourage our citizens to take responsibility for having their animals spayed or neutered. We chose February for this event in part because every cat or dog altered then results in as many as 4-12 kittens or puppies who won't be born in the spring. This prevents not only the suffering of thousands of animals, but of people as well. Every time a healthy cat or dog is killed simply because a suitable home can not be found for them, the shelter workers who must face this tragedy every day die a little inside, too.

So for every person who participated in Spay Day USA 2006, as you enjoy the warm sun, fragrant flowers, and singing birds, we encourage you to remember that the world is a little brighter today because of your efforts just a few short weeks ago. Realize that the beauty of spring does not lie only in the sights, sounds, and smells of the season, but in what is missing as well. Rejoice that every cat or dog who could have been born to be abandoned on the street or discarded at a shelter is an absent reminder that your efforts have made a difference. And renew your commitment to keep working for the day when every animal receives the love and care they deserve.

Because spring should be a time for celebrating life, not ending it.

Annual Rabies Clinics

This year's rabies clinics will be held Friday May 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Glensboro Fire Dept and Saturday May 20th from 1:00 to 3:30 at the Health Department. We need several volunteers to help fill out paperwork!!! No experience necessary!!! **Please** contact Donna at (502) 839-4623 if you'd like to help.

**Humane Society Meeting
Friday, May 12th at 6:00
at the United Methodist Church
located at the corner of Carlton
Drive and Highway 127. Everyone
come and we'll discuss the new
shelter building, fundraisers,
needs of the shelter, and ways you
can help us help the animals. We
will also be voting on our Board of
Directors for the coming year.
Hope to see you there!**