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Grooming Your Cat: Tips to Live By

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Grooming Your Cat: Tips to Live By

Buff and Shine – How to Trim your Cat's Nails and Keep Your Skin Intact

You love your little kitty and there is no gadget you have not bought for her comfort. She has a snuggly bed to sleep in, a self-cleaning litter box, a treat dispenser, cat grass, every cat toy known to the pet shop owner, and a variety of scratching posts. Alas, the only scratching post she seems to enjoy is your sofa.

You have tried spraying the numerous sprays that would allegedly cause her to turn up her little nose at your furniture, but to no avail. Unerringly, she still visits your sofa every day to sharpen her claws. You have tried the sticky tape trick, you know the one – you are supposed to put double sided tape over the spot she scratches so that next time she tries it she will be scared away by the stickiness of the tape, but this only made her go to the other side of the sofa to get her pedicure there.

What is the cat owner to do? Trimming her nails is quite possibly the best option but how can you go about doing so and still live to tell the tale? After all, any time that you come near her with the grooming instrument, she turns into a spitting ball of fur, claws, and teeth!

When contemplating taking on the grooming of your kitty, it is important to work up to the big moment. Plunging right in will only cause for a traumatic experience for kitty and some cuts and bites for you. First and foremost, go ahead and get your cat accustomed to having her paws touched and massaged. This should be done well in advance of any grooming attempts, so that she does not associate having her paws touched with being groomed.

Secondly, read up on the proper techniques. As you may know, there is a blood vessel running inside the claw that can belled profusely when being nicked. Similarly, a wound on her claw can easily become infected since your cat is digging with her paws inside her litter box, and no matter how clean you keep your litter, there are always some bacteria lurking in there. Thus, it is imperative that you avoid clipping too close to that blood vessel. Prior to actually doing the clipping, be sure to get out all the things you think you will need.

The most important tool you will need is the set of nail clippers. This is not the time to skimp and buy something cheap. Similarly, don't use your nail clippers. Your clippers will most likely only rip the nail and may cause some serious damage. Instead, go ahead and visit your pet shop and invest in some heavy-duty Guillotine-type nail clippers made from surgical steel. If they come with an extra blade, this would be even better since it will allow you to remove the other blade for sharpening.

Practice using them before clipping day so you know how to hold them comfortably. Another implement you may need is a towel to wrap your kitty in. If she just doesn't seem to calm down at all, it is best to simply wrap her snugly into a big, soft towel and work on her claws one paw at a time. You may wish to enlist the help of a friend to hold on to your little feline until you and kitty can work out a routine together.

Last but not least you will need a good strong light to see the blood vessel that runs through the claws. Make every effort not to cut through this vessel!

Of course, there is no guarantee that you will succeed, and if your cat gets too upset, it is probably best to take a break for a few minutes, hours, or perhaps even days. Getting only one paw done is not the end of the world, and it is better to stop and let kitty regroup than having her traumatized to a point that she will run from you next time you unpack the clippers.

Another thing to remember is that scolding your cat will accomplish nothing. Unlike dogs, cats do not take kindly to sternly spoken words, and unlike dogs, they may fear you if you persist in scolding them. The last thing you want to do is scare your little feline companion, so be sure to trim nails with compassion and common sense!

Cat Claws for "Paw"se-Little Tricks to Keep Them Clipped

Clipping your cat's claws has many benefits beyond general upkeep. Shorter cat claws make playtime less painful for cat owners and also give furniture a rest from being kitty's scratching post. It is advised that cat owners start claw trimming when your cat is a kitten. Start with a relaxed, sleepy cat, sharp clippers and a good light source, for best results. Regular human toenail or fingernail clippers work well, as well as guillotine-type cat clippers.

Claw Clipping Tips:

1. Support your cat securely in your arm left arm with his front paw in your left hand. It may be easier at first to wrap him in a towel with only the paw extended. This is much easier when your cat is relaxed and sitting in your lap.
2. Press gently but firmly on the pad area to extend a claw. Hold the front paw between your thumb and index finger and this should extend the claws. It isn't necessary to squeeze hard. (You may want to practice steps one and two a few days in advance of the actual trimming; to be sure he's comfortable with your handling his paws.)
3. Examine the claw closely under light to find the pink area in the center called the 'quick.' This is a blood vessel, and will bleed if nicked. Cats will remember the pain and will make your next clipping more of an adventure than you might like.
4. Holding the clippers parallel to the flat part of the claw, quickly snip off the tip, being careful not to cut into the quick, or the pink portion of the nail. Clip very little of the nail until your cat becomes accustomed to the process. Once your kitty relaxes, you can clip more. Don't worry if you aren't able to cut all the claws at once. Do as many as you can and give your cat a break. .
5. Give kitty a treat and a few kind words for being such a good cat. This should be a treat you only give around the time of claw trimming or grooming activities. The more relaxed you and he both are, the easier the process will be.

6. Repeat the previous five steps until you have finished the first paw. Remember there are 5 claws on each forepaw and 5 on each rear paw.

7. If your cat is comfortable and compliant, continue until the nails on both front feet have been clipped. Usually, trimming the back toenails is unnecessary, and undesirable, if the cat is allowed outdoors. Clip the portion above the quick for each nail and don't forget the dewclaws.

On cats, dewclaws are found only on the front paws, about where humans would have their thumbs -- they do not touch the ground. Some cats are polydactyl, and have up to seven claws on any paw. Normally there are four claws per paw, with one dewclaw on each of the front paws. Rear claws don't need to be trimmed as often or at all; they do not grow as quickly and are not as sharp. You should be able to hold any of the four paws with your off hand; it will become easier with practice.

8. If your cat refuses to allow you to trim her claws, get help from a veterinarian or groomer.

Tips:

Keep a barber's styptic pen or styptic powder handy in case you accidentally cut into the quick. If this should happen, apply the powder to the nail to stop the bleeding, and call it a day.

It may be easier if you have a second person holding the cat. Above all, it's important that you and your cat both be relaxed.

If at any time your cat becomes anxious, stop immediately. You can do one claw every day, if necessary.

If all else fails, ask your veterinarian to demonstrate the procedure for you, or schedule your cat for regular nail clips by a veterinarian or groomer. Most vets will perform this service for a minimal charge (@ \$10).

Materials:

Nail clippers

Styptic powder/pencil

Towel

Reward treat or toy

Trim your cat's claws every 2-6 weeks or make an appointment with your veterinarian to have them clipped.

Extra Grooming Tips in Caring for Your Long-Haired Cat

Keeping your long-haired cat's hair off your furniture and carpet can often be a challenge. It may happen no matter how many times a week you brush your cat. It may even happen if your cat has its hair trimmed or thinned out by a professional groomer.

A few extra grooming tips can save you some frustration.

The most useful to you would be a tool that helps your cat groom him or herself. This means that your cat actually does all the work with the use of this particular grooming item. This item is an arched shaped brush that the cat walks through, which the cat can be lured though with the use of catnip. When the arch is full of hair it can easily be cleaned with the use of a vacuum cleaner. Furthermore, this unit can be removed from its base and stored flat.

Other grooming tools to use to help catch loose hair from long-haired cats are various types of brushes. Another type of brush that is useful in removing loose hair from a cat is a brush that has fine ball-tipped nylon bristles which are gentler to the cat's skin. Along with this, you may want to consider using a small three prong de-matting comb for chunks of hair that are stuck together (like a dread of hair on a human).

There are many reasons why you should groom your cat, and some more details regarding grooming that you should follow on a regular basis. The most important reason you would groom your cat is so it remains healthy and happy. This includes stimulating your cat's blood circulation, removing loose hair, and preventing matting. Furthermore, proper grooming can help you quickly detect and remove fleas and ticks that could be problematic to your pet and household.

Usually, you easily detect problems that your cat may have while you are grooming your long-haired feline pet. Pay special attention to tangled hair and hair mats, irritated skin, hair loss (bald spots), and unusual lumps or tenderness of the cat's skin.

When you groom your cat you are really doing a checkup on him or her at the same time. Regular grooming by yourself or a professional can actually save a cat's life at times. (Also, if a cat is constantly scratching between grooming sessions that is a good time to check the cat for problems).

How often a cat needs to be groomed depends on the time of the year, weather conditions, and type and length of coat. Long-haired cats, for best results, should usually be groomed daily, as opposed to short-haired cats of who only need to be groomed twice a week.

Grooming a long-haired cat also involve giving it a bath. Most cats are too small for a bathtub, so it is best to put your cat into a baby bath pan, or into a sink. A dishpan could also serve the same purpose.

When giving your feline pet a bath, make sure you have at least two towels around. One towel is usually used for drying your pet, and another towel is used for wrapping your pet. You may also use a blanket in which to wrap your cat as well.

Another item that is useful for bathing your cat is cotton balls, which help prevent water from entering a cat's ears. If water gets into a cat's ears, an ear infection could occur, therefore remember to plug the cat's ears while giving it a bath.

Before putting your cat into the bathwater, be sure to test the temperature of the water with the back of your hand or your wrist. This will help prevent scalding your feline pet's skin when you insert him or her into the water.

After you are done giving your long-haired cat a bath, you will need to comb his or her hair as soon as possible. This will prevent from any further tangles or matted hair from developing. Detangler can help you comb your cat's hair without hurting him or her, and will make your cat's hair after a bath less difficult to manage. Upon coming your cat's hair, be sure to use the proper hair grooming tools as described above.

If you need to cut your cat's hair, especially to remove matted hair, make sure that you do it in a way that will not cut your cat's skin. Also, make sure that you use the proper cat grooming scissors for best results.

If you want to learn more about cat grooming techniques to help you, make sure you read other articles on cat grooming that are appropriate for your particular breed of cat. A world of information is out there, right at your fingertips. Take advantage of it.

Grooming Accessories You Need to Pamper Your Cat

Most cats usually groom themselves by licking their coats of hair and other body parts clean. However, they would also enjoy the extra touch that pet owner cats give with a variety of grooming accessories.

Grooming supplies can mean a multitude of items, such as shampoos, detangler, nail clippers, dental wipes and brushes, and other cleaning items.

However, the kind of grooming supplies and treatments that a cat would most likely enjoy would be when you come or wash his or her hair. The other pampering that your cat may enjoy would be when you use decorative collars and jewelry to make him or her look extra special. These grooming techniques can become an enjoyable part of your feline pet's life.

The reason why these grooming accessories can provide the feeling of being pampered in a cat is because these techniques involve the use of hands. Most cats like a fair amount of affection, and especially enjoy being behind the ears. Therefore, you can use this concept to your advantage when trying to perform a routine tick or flea check.

If you find a brush with bristle ends that are soothing to the skin, your cat would really the sensual feeling of you coming the cat's coat of hair. It would be like a human giving another human a massage or a cosmologist washing a customer's hair before trimming it. The trick would be to make sure that you use the right size bristles for your cat's hair length.

Usually long-haired cats would require a brush with longer bristles, and a short hair cat would require a brush with shorter bristles. In either case, a cat would enjoy the sensation of a brush with soft or round-ended bristles over the rough intrusion of hard metal and pointed ended bristles. Furthermore, the cat is more likely to let you comb his or her hair if you comb it the direction of the hair's growth.

Combing a cat's hair, especially for a long-haired feline is similar to the technique used when petting your cat. Make sure you comb the hair along with the hair growth for extra comfort to your animal.

Other supplies used can comfort a cat, but it depends on whether that cat will mind being touched for a long period of time. That would include using shampoos that are as gentle as a baby's shampoo to wash the cat's hair. If your cat does not mind getting wet, the calming of hand washing the cat's fur can be very relaxing to the cat.

In addition, a grooming supply that can be used is a self-grooming arched brush. This arched brush stands upright on a base, and is big enough for the cat to crawl through, but small enough to remove all the loose hair from your cat. Your cat will enjoy this, because most cats love to rub against objects around the house anyway. This will allow a cat to work on removing excess hair, even when the owner is away at work.

Remember these tips about grooming to pamper your cat, because your cat does no more want to be spoiled than does a child.

Another way to pamper your family feline is to make your family cat look great. That way, your cat will feel better going out into the world, mostly because people will respond to how well your animal is groomed. Some safety collars have designs on them made from colored rhinestone, beads, or other decorative stones. You can keep your pet near you in style, and the pet will also be safe as well. Be sure for maximum comfort, to find a collar material that will not irritate your cat's skin.

Besides using a stylish color to enhance your cat's attractiveness, you can pamper your cat by tying a ribbon, bow, or bandanna to decorate his or her hair. If you want your cat to look more feminine, you can find ribbons and bows to tie into the cat's hair to make it look more like you think a female should look. If you want your cat to look more masculine, you can find male hair bandannas or ribbons to make your cat look more like you think a male should look.

Another variation of hair decorations that can be used is different styles of pet barrettes. Some with bows attached to them so you do not have to tie them into your cat's hair. Others are decorated with rhinestones, diamonds (either real or fake), and other precious gems.

One more item you would make use of, especially in colder climates is cat clothing. Sometimes your pet gets just as cold as you do, and you can buy an attractive sweaters that would fit your cat perfectly. You can also sometimes find short and long sleeve shirts and even shorts for your cat to wear. Search the Internet for "cat clothes". You will be surprised what you can find if you search for it.

Continue to browse and search the various links available to you to find more and more accessories with which to pamper your feline pet. You and your pet's quality of life will improve because of it.

Grooming Tips for Your Short-Haired Feline

Most cats will lick themselves all the time. This is their way of keeping themselves clean. However, a cat owner can further help with improving the cat's overall hygiene. Read further for simple tips on grooming your short-haired feline friend.

Short-haired cats do not need to be groomed as often as long haired cats need it, but it is recommended to be done at least twice a week (versus every day for long haired cats). The reason why is to make sure that the cat is free from fleas and ticks, and to check for any other abnormalities, such as bald spots or inflammations of the skin.

Your cat's overall health will be greatly improved by keeping its hair neatly combed and wash, and trimmed periodically. The best type of brush for a short-haired cat would be one with very short bristles. Too long of bristles, especially if the bristles are metal, can cut your cat's skin. Be sure when combing your short-haired cat that you use the proper comb for it.

Even though a short-haired cat is less likely to get hair balls or mats (chunks of cat hair stuck together or tangled), it is still possible. Be careful when trying to remove them, especially in older cats. Before cutting off a hair matt, make sure that you insert a comb underneath the matted hair, above the skin. Then, very carefully cut with a cat grooming scissors, and be sure not to scratch or puncture the cat's skin.

One brush contains extra small pins, and a small enough head to make brushing cats very easily. Be careful to brush the direction of your cat's hair growth, otherwise you may hear it snarl. (Washing your cat's hair in the wrong direction is like petting an animal's hair in the wrong direction, and causes discomfort to the pet.)

Another necessary step in helping keep your cat clean and well groomed is to give the cat a bath. It is recommended to take a towel and a small carrier into the bathroom with you in case your cat gets upset before, during or after the bathing routine. The cat can be placed in it until he or she calms down.

When bathing the cat, it is best to use the proper shampoo. A gentle cat shampoo that lathers up pretty good is recommended. Either that, or if a cat has dandruff, it is best to use a shampoo that will help reduce the dryness and flaking of the cat's skin. If the cat does not have dandruff, but instead has fleas, be sure to use a flea shampoo, and the proper flea comb to remove them.

Other grooming tips, when applied can help giving your cat a bath much easier, and safer. One tip to remember before putting your cat into the bathwater (usually in a sink or baby bath pan, because cats are too small to fit in a bathtub) is to make sure that your house temperature is at least 70 degrees, so your cat does not freeze when taken out of the water to dry.

Furthermore, before you put your cat into the bathwater, sure to check the temperature of the water, so it is not too hot or too cold for your cat. The part of the hand that provides the most accurate indication of water temperature is the on the back of your hand, or on the wrist. Best results for providing the right water temperature is to make sure you periodically test it when you are filling up the sink or other bath basin with water, and not afterwards.

One more tip to remember when it is time to bathe your cat is to keep on hand at least two towels on hand. One should be used for drying, and the other towel should be used for wrapping. For greater warmth, a blanket can also be used after towel drying to prevent the cat from getting a cold or sickness.

To protect the cat's ears while bathing, you can insert cotton balls into your cat's ears. Inserting these cotton balls can reduce the chance of ear infection from forming, especially immediately after the cat is removed from the bath water.

When you remove your cat from the bath water, be sure to quickly and thoroughly dry the cat off.) This, along with making sure the cat's ears are plugged will taking a bath will help fight against the possibility of cold or sickness when the cat's wet body is exposed to the air (even if the room temperature is 70 degrees, because the water is usually slightly hotter than that).

After you give your cat a bath, it is better to let your cat rest for a little while, especially if the cat is upset from having to take a bath. When your cat is calm, and then will want to comb and/or trim his or her hair, and check for matted hair. Again, cats with short hair are less likely to have tangled hair, but if there is, you can use a cat hair detangler to spray onto the coat of hair. This will help make combing through the tangles easier.

When trimming a cat's hair, be sure that you have the proper grooming scissors, and be sure that you using a comb underneath the scissors, so you do not scratch or puncture your cat's skin. If you do not feel comfortable cutting your own cat's hair, or if you do not have the patience you can hire a professional pet groomer who will do it for you. However, if you just keep in mind to just make sure you cut evenly, without hurting the cat, you will be just fine grooming your cat at home.

For more tips on cat grooming and other aspects of raising cats, read the other articles on this page, or feel free to click on one of the sponsored links.

A wealth of information is available to you at your fingertips about how to properly groom your family feline. Be sure to take advantage of it.

Seven Ideas to Keep Your Feline's Fur Shiny and Pampered

You have brought home your new kitty and are all excited about the new life you have ahead of you together. Of course, you want to make sure that her needs are met, and also that you keep her looking beautiful and feeling healthy. To this end you have invested in some Guillotine nail clippers to make sure her little claws do not get too long and perhaps get caught in the fabric of

your couch. Is there anything else you need to keep your feline's fur shiny and pampered? Well, here are seven tips to keep it looking beautiful!

Purchase only premium brand cat food. Cat food has a huge impact on the overall appearance of your cat's fur, and premium food will leave it looking shiny and healthy, while diets comprised of low quality food will often leave it looking dull and brittle. Additionally, of course, there are a number of benefits that are associated with the feeding of high quality food.

Bathe your cat is necessary. Yes, it is true that cats will shun the water like vampires are said to shun garlic, but there are rare instances in which a bath is necessary. If, for example, you bring home a stray it is very likely that she is invested with fleas or mites, and needs to be thoroughly cleaned up. Whatever the need may be, do not use your shampoo or shower gel. Instead, do purchase a high quality pet shampoo that is especially formulated for cats.

Buy the right type of brush. You knew that brushing your cat would be part of this routine, but did you also know that not all brushes are created equal? If you have a long-haired cat, you will need a different kind of brush than if you had a domestic shorthair. Brushes overall should have soft bristles or be made of plastic or rubber. Avoid the metal kind even though it might seem easier to use. One hard brush stroke can have you draw blood if you are very careful, and this will make it a miserable experience for the both of you.

Brush your cat regularly. Cats love to be brushed and your will let you know just how much she appreciates it. Make sure that you brush in the same direction that the fur is actually growing and not against the grain. Furthermore, if your kitty has come from the outside or was neglected in any way, you may want to have some grooming scissors handy to cut out the mats that might have formed in her coat.

Contemplate the use of vitamins. Although sometimes not needed when feeding your cat a highly nutritious diet, some cats have special dietary needs that may date back to the time they were living on the streets or were not cared for as properly and lovingly as they should have been. For these kinds of cats your veterinarian may suggest a dietary supplement. This kitty vitamin will have the additional benefit of improving the look and feel of the cat's hair and repairing a lot of the damage that a lack of care may have caused.

Keep your cat indoors. If you are worried about mats developing, you may wish to keep your cat inside, especially if she is a long haired animal. Cats love to roll around outside, and she will collect dirt, twigs, and leaves in her fur which will then mat up. Add to this the danger of picking up some parasites, and you will find compelling reasons for not letting your long haired sweetie run wild outside.

Last but not least pet your cat! As easy as it may sound, petting your cat will help to distribute the natural oils her skin exudes and get her fur evenly coated with them. If you ever needed an excuse or a reason to do something you already enjoy so much, here it is! Petting your cat is a wonderful grooming and bonding tool as well, and your relationship with your little feline companion will soar to new heights. Isn't living with a cat simply wonderful? So go ahead and keep you cat looking healthy and happy by pampering her.

The Basics for Brushing Your Cat's Teeth

Brushing your cat's teeth does not have to be an adventure. As with most adventures with pets, all it takes is some patience and planning. Proper dental care can keep your cat's gums and teeth healthy as well as other body systems as well including the kidneys and valve systems. Brushing your cat's teeth several times a week is recommended if daily cleanings are not permitted by your cat. Every other day cleanings will keep plaque away before it has time to build up. Begin this regimen at an early age for best results in the future.

First, choose a proper time and place. Choose a quiet place and begin at a time when you and your cat are both relaxed. The first few times just massage her neck and mouth area, and then move to her cheeks and gums. Progress on to using poultry flavored toothpaste or a baking soda and tuna water mixture on your finger.

Toothpastes are available in a variety of pet-friendly flavors from your local pet or grocery store including seafood, malt, and chicken. Various veterinary dentists have recommended those toothpastes that contain chlorhexidine or hexametaphosphate. The best pet toothpaste would contain both. Never use human toothpaste as it causes kitty tummy upset. Brush one or two teeth at a time and if your cat allows, do more.

Once your pet has become accustomed to the process of tooth brushing, introduce the smallest available toothbrush or dental sponge. The bristles should be held at a 45 degree angle and be moved in an oval motion. If the cat refuses to accept the toothbrush, dental sponge, or finger brush, try using a piece of gauze wrapped around your finger with toothpaste on it. Cotton swabs, gauze pads, or soft cloths dipped in saline are also options if your cat does not take to poultry paste.

Using an oval circular motion while brushing, brush the gum line and a few teeth at a time. Try to get to the rear teeth where large amounts of plaque and tartar tend to build up. Stop before your cat begins to fuss or you may never be able to clean your pet's teeth at home. Try to brush 30 seconds on each side. Go slowly and gently and don't make it a torturous affair for your cat. Be sure to reward your cat with a treat and praise for a job well done. Don't beat yourself up if your progress is not what you expected.

Getting a little toothpaste on your cat's teeth and gums is better than none at all. If your cat experiences pain, she may have a deeper problem such as an infected, broken tooth or inflamed gums. Consult your veterinarian so your pet can be under anesthesia when having a deeper cleaning.

Dental diets may also be a step toward good pet dental hygiene. Some foods eliminate plaque buildup and some are formulated to prevent plaque. Dry food may be better than canned food for your cat's teeth. Chew toys that are softer than your cat's teeth may help keep your cat's teeth clean and promote circulation in her gums.

AAHA encourages pet owners to regularly examine their pet's teeth for signs of periodontal disease, such as brownish colored teeth; swollen, red, or bleeding gums; persistent bad breath; loose teeth or loss of teeth; pus between the gums and teeth; broken teeth and any unusual growth in the mouth. Reluctance to eat, play with chew toys, or drink cold water is warning

signs of periodontal or gum disease. Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of these signs in your pet.

Meow Cheese! Pampering Your Cat's Teeth Can Lead to a Long Life

Just like humans, a cat's teeth needs to be well cared for in order to ensure a long and healthy life. Cats are prone to gingivitis and periodontal disease, which can result in the permanent loss of teeth. Properly caring for your cat's teeth can not only ensure that she lives happily and healthily, but the time spent together taking care of her teeth can also help establish a bond between the two of you. Here are seven tips to getting your cat started on a lifelong program of good oral health.

1. Begin by examining your cat's teeth and gums.

You will want to do this in a location with lots of clear, natural light where you can get a good view of her mouth. A penlight and small dental mirror may come in handy for this examination, as well.

As unpleasant as you may find this, dentists and veterinarians suggest that you begin by making note of the smell of your cat's breath. If your cat's breath has a distinctly foul odor, your cat may be suffering from some kind of infection, most commonly a gum infection. If your cat's bad breath persists, even after regular brushing and maintenance, pay a visit to your vet.

Many people are wary when first attempting to examine their cat's teeth. The trick is to approach your cat calmly. Speak to your cat as you would any other time, petting her head continuously as you prepare to open her mouth. Once your cat seems relaxed, slowly tip her head back and use your fingers to pry her mouth slightly open.

Examine the teeth for signs of plaque, the sticky bacterial substance that causes cavities. Early signs of plaque consist of yellowing at the back of the teeth, although in severe cases you may find it near the front of your cat's mouth. You will also want to check for tartar, which is slightly darker than plaque.

Examine your cat's mouth for broken or missing teeth. Your cat's gums should be a healthy bright pink. If they are red or very pale, your cat may be suffering from an infection. Any sign of abscesses, bleeding, or irregular colors should be checked out by your vet as soon as possible.

2. Begin a regular oral hygiene program that includes regular teeth cleaning.

If your cat is new to having its teeth cleaned, begin by using your index finger as a toothbrush. Wrap your 'finger' brush with sterile gauze, dip the tip of your finger into a bit of toothpaste, and slowly open your cat's mouth. Use your finger brush to very gently rub the paste against your cat's teeth and gums. While you brush your cat's teeth, it may help to play soothing music and talk to her. Once your cat has gotten used to the routine, you may graduate to a small child's toothbrush.

Experiment with different flavors of toothpaste to see which kind your cat seems to enjoy best. As a reward for her cooperation, feed your kitty a small dental treat after each teeth-cleaning session.

3. Feeding your kitty high quality kibble is essential.

In order to ensure that your cat benefits from a regular oral hygiene program, make sure she munches only on high quality kibble. While most cats love the taste of moist cat food, your cat needs the dry, crunchy texture of dry kibble to keep her teeth strong and clean. You will want to inspect the ingredients to make sure the kibble does not contain artificial preservatives and flavorings, as these are usually hard on the teeth.

4. Treat your kitty to special dental treats.

If your cat seems to take to the oral hygiene program, treat her to some special dental treats. Many cat owners are surprised to learn of the variety of oral care products available for cats. For the sweet and cooperative cat that enjoys the pleasures of good oral care, buy her some special dental treats, such as Petrodex Dental Treats for cats.

These special fish-flavored treats are specially formulated to cleanse and freshen your kitty's breath while killing plaque and tartar. Another special gift for your kitty is the C.E.T. Cat Oral Hygiene Kit. This kit comes with everything you need to keep your cat's mouth healthy, including a special seafood-flavored toothpaste, finger brush, and a special toothbrush designed for the size of the average cat's mouth.

Give Your Pampered Kitty a Workout With a Cat Gym

You spent a lot of money on couches, sofas, chairs, curtains, beds, rugs, and carpets, or even if you didn't they still cost a good chunk of change to repair or replace. From your cat's point of view, your furniture is THEIRS! If you are ok with that, you may stop reading here; you have officially become your cat's indentured servant.

Good luck with that life of servitude. There is an expression that every cat owner will agree to: "Dogs have masters, cats have staff". If you are part of the staff, then your entire house is a kitty condo and this article serves no purpose. If you are the master just letting your cat think she has a staff, (lets face it, those are the only 2 options!) then lets continue.

Most kitty condos also serve as a kitty gym. The main difference is that kitty gyms have more levels so your cat can jump around more. They are completely carpeted so your cat can scratch to her heart's content, which is the best exercise for her.

Be sure to check around for the kitty condo of your choice. If you want a certain look or specific style, then a pet store will probably be your best bet. If a simple gym is suitable, then try a general shopping store that may have only a few selections but often will have better prices.

You don't need to spend a fortune on kitty gyms with special beds on them. If you let your cat talk you into it, you could be spending well over a hundred bucks on a kitty gym that does not serve the needs of your cat. Remember, regardless of what your cat may tell you, YOU are the master. Try not to forget that.

A kitty gym should have a perch or a platform on it that she can lay on, but not a bed. You want to encourage her to exercise when on it, not sleep. Get a kitty condo for that. They are basically the same thing, but if she has one to play on, and one to sleep on, she won't get bored. On average cats sleep about 16 hours a day.

They spend about 2 hours a day scratching and the rest of the day annoying someone to pet them and caress them and feed them and just about anything else your cat has talked you into do by looking at you and purring. A kitty gym will give them a place to scratch, the condo a place to sleep, and as for the rest, well I think you know your place.

One way to get your cat to start using this new gym is to walk her through what to do. Your cat will think you are just playing, but she is learning what is acceptable at the same time. Start by placing her at the base of the kitty gym. Caress her and play with her a second to get her comfortable around the gym. Then place her two front paws on the scratching post, squeezing slightly so she extracts her claws. Run her claws down the scratching post very lightly. You want her to get the idea that it's OK to scratch here, but you don't want to rip her claws out in the process.

Once you do this, you may just want to place her on a couple of the levels and just play with her on the gym. You will get some personal time with her. She will get some exercise and get to figure out what the heck this contraption you brought home is. Introducing your cat to her new tool like this is very good for you and her.

After a week or so, you should see her play on it more often. She will scratch it, lounge on it, and chase her toys on it. You may even hide a treat or two on some of the levels to encourage her to jump around on it occasionally to look for treats. A kitty gym will be a great investment for your cats' health and entertainment.

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