



Basic Cat Grooming

Congratulations on your new addition! If there's one thing cats are famous for, it's their soft, cuddly fur. Though cats are quite independent, and meticulous about cleaning and grooming themselves, you can help to maintain a healthy, mat-free coat on your cat by doing regular grooming maintenance at home.

For Long-Haired Cats

If your cat has long, fluffy hair, it's very important to brush him every day to prevent mats. Mats are dense tangles of hair that form when a coat has been left untended. Most typically they will form in a high friction area, such as behind ears, on the hind end, legs, etc. Once a cat is matted, it is very unlikely that a groomer will be able to brush them out, and your cat may have to be shaved. To avoid this, try to brush your cat daily with a **soft slicker brush**. He may not enjoy it, but a mat-free cat is a happy, comfortable cat, so be patient, and he'll get used to it.

For Short-Haired Cats

With your typical short-haired cat, matting is not typically a concern. More than anything, owners of these types worry about **shedding** and what they can do to reduce it. Regular brushing will help your cat's coat to naturally renew itself. I recommend using a combination of a **soft slicker brush** and a **Zoom Groom**. Zoom Groom's are rubber brushes designed to help remove shedding hair in a gentle way. And since they're made of solid rubber, they can even be used during the bath. If you have a short haired dog, try it on him too, they work wonders! Also, a **low shed treatment** at our spa is sure to cut down on flying fur. Ask a staff member for details!

It's important to get your cat or kitten used to basic grooming practices as soon as possible, to avoid stressful visits to your groomer in the future. With regular brushing, and visits to the vet for toenail trims, you'll find that you and your cat can live more comfortably together.

Happy Brushing!
Destiny Nelson
Pet Stylist