



# GROOMING



## Cat Grooming:

Would you go days or even weeks without brushing your hair? No way and neither should your cat! Even though your cat may be a fastidious groomer and a bit of a neat freak they still need a little helping hand from you, their slave, to maintain a healthy coat by removing excess debris and loose hair. Giving them a bit of grooming assistance will also reduce problems such as those great hairballs that they love to deposit on your pillow, in the middle of the new doona or on the slate tiles!!



Short haired cat breeds should be brushed once a week, while longer haired breeds need regular, daily grooming – in a purrfect world!!

At the Animal Aid Grooming Salon we are always hear the phrase ‘my cat hates being brushed’! And granted this is often very true and can cause angst between cat and slave! So here are some tips to keep the peace:

**TIP 1 – TRICKS:** Most cats adore a good pat so add a rubber washing up glove to the mix and your cat is groomed in the one stroking action!! The glove acts like a magnet and draws loose hair from the coat. Once your cat is used to this you may be able to introduce a soft brush for short coats and a slicker or comb for longer coats.

**TIP 2 - COMB CHOICE:** for a long hair cat, use a comb with rotating tines. The action of the tines allows the knots to be removed more easily without uncomfortable pulling.

**TIP 3 - TIME:** Know when to STOP! Do not force the issue and have your cat resent being groomed.

**TIP 4 - A TREAT OR TWO!:** Always try and groom your cat away from any distractions and reward good behaviour.

**TIP 5 - START ‘EM YOUNG:** Introduce grooming to your cat as young as possible and it will then be part of their routine.

**TIP 6 - GENTLE, GENTLE:** Don’t go about grooming your cat like a bull after a heifer in heat! Be calm, gentle and kind.

If your cat has become a big ball of matts DO NOT attempt to remove them yourself. Matts are painful; cats have very fine skin, which can tear easily. Leave their removal to a professional cat



groomer. Grooming a very matted cat may involve sedation by a veterinarian.

### **Bathing Your Cat**

Cats are generally not known to be fond of water and most do not require a bath in their life time as they fastidiously clean themselves all the time.

If they require a bath, don't just grab your cat and dunk them in a bowl like a toilet brush! Introduce a warm, wet cloth for the first time and pat down with a towel to dry (your cat will dry themselves properly later). If your cat tolerates water, you can fill a bowl with a few inches of warm water, add a little cat shampoo and pour the water with a jug over your cat's body (but avoid their head area). If your cat enjoys that process then you could use a sink or laundry trough and try a hose on a soft, warm spray (again, NOT around the head).

