

Persian Cat Care



Persian cats are both blessed and somewhat cursed with unique characteristics. Their flat, snub-nosed faces and thick, double coat are what make this breed so popular. However, grooming can be quite a challenge. By staying on top of your Persian's grooming needs, you can eliminate the hassle of working out tangles and mats. Here are a few helpful tips that may be all you need to keep your cat's fur, ears, nails and eyes clean and healthy:

- **Coat Maintenance:** Persian cats have a long, silky double-coat which will matt and tangle easily if not brushed daily. A typical cat brush is not effective on a Persian cat's fur. A wide-toothed comb is the most effective at detangling. Problem areas include: behind the ears, under the chin, the stomach area, and underneath each arm. If you comb the whole coat daily (spending a bit more time in the problem areas) your cat will never have a mat!
- **Eye Cleaning:** Most Persian cats have "weepy" eyes and, if left untouched, can stain and build up around the cat's eyes; sometimes leading to infection. Their eyes will need to be gently wiped twice daily with a special eye cleaning solution or simply warm water on a paper towel or quilted cotton pad. HSCC recommends a betadine and water mixture or a tear stain remover.
- **Ear Cleaning:** Persian cats have smaller and fuzzier ears than most breeds so it's easy for ear infections to go unnoticed or untreated. It's important to inspect your cat's ears as part of the grooming process and to clean them if they appear oily or dirty. Use a cotton ball moistened with ear cleaner to gently wipe the cat's ears. Make sure to see a veterinarian if there is discharge or a bad odor.
- **Nail trimming:** Persians, like all cats, will need their nails trimmed. Front claws should be cut every couple weeks, but back claws grow slower and can be done less often.
- **Hairballs:** Your Persian cat will inevitably develop hairballs, but brushing on a regular basis will greatly help prevent them from occurring. You can also give a hairball formula (often malt flavored) to your cat to help prevent and treat hairball problems.
- **Dental care:** Brushing your Persian's teeth, as with any cat, will help reduce tartar buildup and prevent dental disease. You can also get specially designed treats to help break down tartar.
- **Bathing:** The frequency of baths will depend on your Persian's fur. A Persian cat will begin to look greasy as it becomes dirtier and mats will increase quickly if the cat is not bathed.

**** Remember to offer a treat or yummy wet food after each grooming session to increase a positive association with the task. If your cat will not tolerate in-home grooming, contact your veterinarian or a grooming professional for help.***