

## Grooming

**Grooming is vital for longhaired cats.** When the hair is left unbrushed, it twists together. If left for long periods of time, more and more hairs twist together forming a 'matt'. These matts can tear the skin as the twisting pulls at the roots. The grooming equipment we stock can help to remove knots and matts, although we would always recommend prevention rather than cure. Smooth and shorthaired cats should also be groomed regularly - loose hair can irritate the skin.

Apart from regular grooming, your cat may also require the odd bath - not necessarily with shampoos as they remove the natural oils from your dogs coat, sometimes just warm water will do. Ear cleaning and eye bathing may be required (**check with your vet or Pets Corner Staff if you are not sure of any procedures**).

You will need to clip your pets' claws on a frequent basis, particularly if your cat is senior in years (as they grow at a faster rate). A trim every few months should prevent any discomfort when walking and excess scratching of your furniture! **If left too long, they could affect the shape of the toes and make walking very painful for your pet.**

## Safety and hygiene

Not only is the health of your pet important, but his or her safety should always be your concern. You cannot guarantee the safety of your cats if you let them out of the house, particularly at night.

We would always recommend precautionary products for all situations as you can never be too sure.

- | Travel crates & carriers for any long journeys
- | Large cat crates or rear garden runs for unsupervised safety at home.

Your cat may have 'accidents', which need to be cleaned up with the minimum of fuss, and preferably not in front of your pet - this doesn't mean shut them in another room! Just distract them. They probably couldn't feel more guilty anyway!

Make sure you clean up with a **pet-safe disinfectant** as human cleaners include the same main ingredient as your cat's accident! Ammonia. We do sell products that repel your pet from one area and another product which could attract it elsewhere.

**We are always happy to talk to you about your pet, so feel free to contact us whatever the issue.**

The information in this leaflet is intended as a guide only, as animals have individual requirements and temperaments.

## Cats

You can never know too much about the animal you choose for your pet. Everyone has their own opinions about breeding, training, feeding and general care so don't just base your opinions on one persons experiences. Learn for yourself by getting several opinions concerning the area of your concern or interest.

## Shopping List

It's a good idea to get as many of the following items as possible when you buy your pet.

- ★  Food
- ★  Food and water bowls
- ★  Cat loo and litter
- ★  Collar and bell
- Harness and lead
- Flea and worm treatments
- ★  Brush and comb
- ★  Bed
- ★  Catnip scratching post
- ★  Toys and treats
- ★  Cat Carrier
- ★  Animal safe disinfectant
- Cat flap
- Nail clippers
- ★  Microchip and ID tag
- Insurance
- Book

★ **ESSENTIAL PURCHASES.**  
YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THESE ITEMS WHEN YOU BRING YOUR PET HOME.

## Important Contacts

Pets Corner

or call us freephone on **0800 1696098**

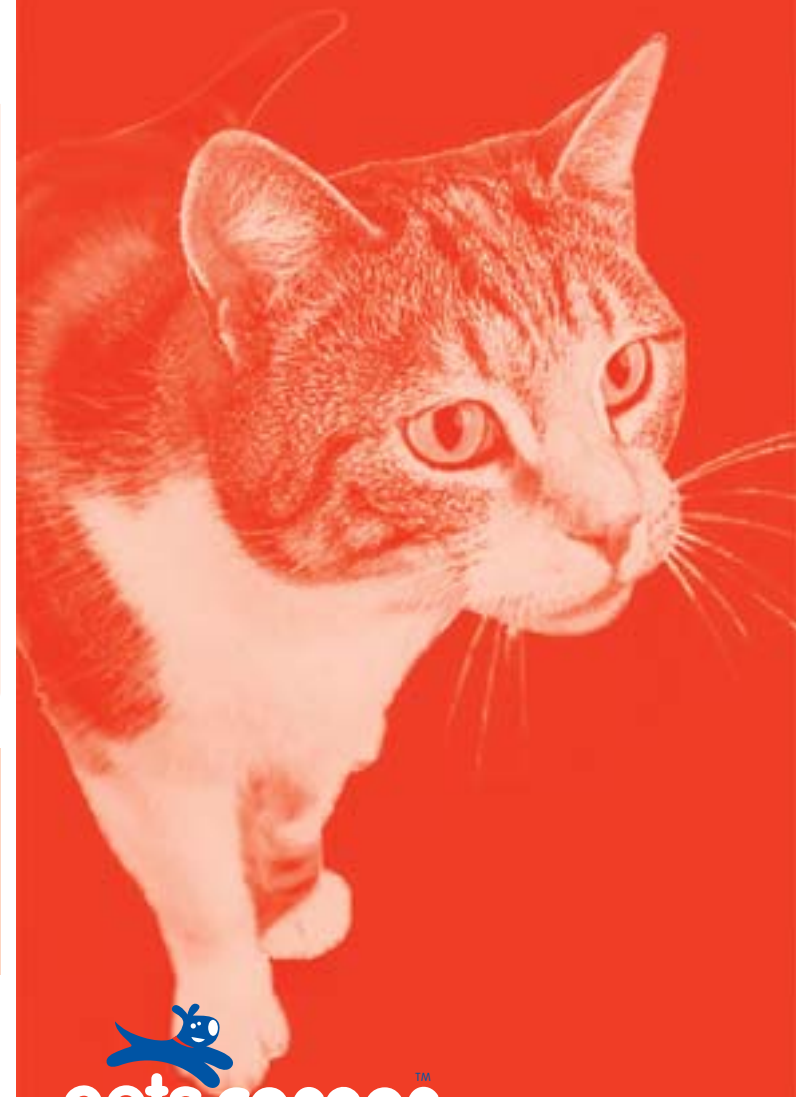
Vets



Find out all about us at:  
**petscorner.co.uk**

If you have any questions about your pet or any points made in this leaflet, please contact us and we will be happy to help.

## Careguide Cats



# Think twice!

A new pet can be a fantastic companion, but sometimes the novelty can wear off (some pets live for a very long time). You may find that regular cleaning, feeding and playing becomes a time consuming chore.

Please try to handle and play with your pet as often as possible, you will find that you will be rewarded with a much happier and friendlier pet.

**If you are not 100% sure that you or your children will be able to give your pet the attention that it needs then please think twice.**

## Do you have the time?



**This does not mean 'how long are you in the house' but how much time throughout each day are you able to devote to training, exercise and general care of your pet? Depending on the 'breed' or 'cross' you choose or acquire.**

- 1 Grooming could take at least an hour each day,
- 1 Exercise - in the form of play - can while away several hours, spread throughout each day,
- 1 Basic training (toilet training/what-not-to-scratch training), trips to the vets etc. all take up time.

**That's at least 10 hours a week, and that's just the basics!**

**Cats generally have a very independent spirit. They can be very active with great personalities. If raised and trained properly they'll be your friends for life. We've compiled this leaflet to help you help your cats settle in properly.**

## General Care

**Before you do anything....**

**Have your cats checked by the vet and insured if possible. This should identify any problems he/she may have already, and will help with financial support if anything goes wrong in the future.**

You may wish to identify your cat or cats with brightly coloured or decorated **cat collars** - these are always elasticated to prevent your cat from becoming trapped or strangled, this is why they always lose them - it means your cat was trapped by the neck!

You can attach small **engraved discs** with your details. Our stores do operate a service for engraving identity tags for collars in a variety of sizes. Choose the size that's suits your cats - not just to cater for your phone numbers and addresses etc. We also carry out **microchipping** for cats at certain stores - please ask for details.

## Sit!

If you find that you have acquired a cat who is not quite as well behaved as you had hoped, we do also stock a wide range of training aids and toys which added to our staff advice should overcome nearly all undesirable activities you may find yourself confronted with. **We also have several qualified animal trainers in our staff, who give advice on specific problems, they are contactable through all of our stores.**

## Feeding time

Pets Corner specialises in nutrition. **Our staff are trained in all of our food related products to offer you the best advice on feeding to suit your pet, both in complete foods and treats.** We stock foods to cater for all ages and pet lifestyles - active, average or lazy / kitten, adult or senior. Not only can we select the healthiest, most natural diet for your pet, but **we could also save you around £300 per year!**

You should also choose a **bowl** to suit your cat. Whether ceramic or stainless steel, make sure that the sides are not too high. Plastic bowls are less stable and are more suitable for temporary use. Make sure each cat has a separate bowl to avoid one getting too greedy and the other missing out. If necessary, watch over the meals.

## Beds and baskets

Choose a suitable bed for your pet and choose well, as this should be the place where your pet feels safe and secure. It should be of a size that your pet prefers, although with cats, this choice is quite difficult, as they tend to sleep anywhere! You may find that cats like one bed one week and a carrier bag the next, so cat beds are more temporary than permanent, but are used nevertheless!

Depending on age and behaviour of your cat, select a non-destructible or waterproof material to avoid damage - either accidental or quite clearly done on purpose!

Many cat-scratching posts include areas for your cats to sleep or snooze on. Again, your cats will choose when they wish to use this area, so do move beds and posts around and re-introduce them periodically to increase interest.

## Fleas and worms

Regardless of age or behaviour, your pet will come into contact with fleas and worms - in fact, they nearly always pick up worms before they are weaned!



**Catch fleas before they do any damage**

These two parasites use our cats as hosts, but they actually live and grow in our houses - in the furniture, the carpet and on other upholstery. This is why it is so important that all the stages of these pests lifecycle are treated at the same time. The best path to follow includes these 4 steps:

- Step 1: Treat your house/flat - aerosol or powder**
- Step 2: Treat your cat - shampoo, aerosol or powder**
- Step 3: Worm your cat - 1 dose or 3 dose**
- Step 4: Protect your cat - flea collar fitted a week after 1, 2 & 3**

**Regular vacuuming of the carpet and washing of your cats' bed and bedding should lower the chances of flea infestations. Also, regular grooming of your cat while out of the house should prevent them bringing unwanted guests inside in the first place! Regular grooming reduces the time your cat spends scratching.**