



Blue Springs

# Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



## GROOMING YOUR CAT

Cats are naturally clean animals and normally groom themselves daily. Most shorthaired cats will not require extensive grooming or bathing. They may be bathed and brushed with a slicker brush if desired, but it is not a requirement with shorthaired cats unless they soil themselves in some way. Regular bathing and brushing of a shorthaired cat will reduce, but not eliminate, the dander that causes allergies in humans. Such care should be started at a young age, as many adult cats that have never been bathed will object strongly to bathing. The nails of cats that have not been declawed can be trimmed back to reduce scratching and catching of the nails in the carpet or furniture if desired.

**Many longhaired breeds can not adequately groom themselves and often require daily brushing and cleaning.** Brushing longhaired cats with a comb, slickerbrush, or matbreaker will remove loose, shedding hair, and prevent hair matting and tangling. Grooming or clipping in the anal area is sometimes necessary to prevent feces from collecting in the hair in that area. Persians and other cats with large, prominent eyes often have drainage from the eyes that requires daily cleaning with a soft cloth or tissue. Longhaired cats can be bathed if desired, but care should be taken to make sure that all mats and tangles are combed out prior to wetting the hair. Bathing and brushing must be started at a young age with these breeds of cats to accustom them to grooming.

Some cats will ingest enough hair during their grooming that it collects in the stomach and forms a "hairball". Hairballs often pass in the stool, but sometimes the cat will collect enough hair that it irritates the stomach and causes vomiting of large wads of hair. **If your cat is frequently vomiting up hairballs, you will need to brush out the loose hair more frequently and give a hairball remedy such as Laxatone. There are also special diets available at pet retailers, which when consumed, help hairballs pass in the stool. Recommended hairball formulas include Science Diet®, Eukanuba™, and Iams®.**

Please call the hospital if you have questions about grooming or hairball prevention.

---

Blue Springs Animal Hospital & Pet Resort  
1201 W. 40 Highway Blue Springs, MO 64015  
(816) 229-1544

[www.bluespringsanimalhospital.com](http://www.bluespringsanimalhospital.com)