

Grooming 101: Grooming School E-course

Cat Coat Conditioning Tricks

In this class I hope to teach you how to know when to condition -how to condition and what to use.

If your kitty is on a healthy diet and you are using good grooming products- no conditioning should really be required. The health of the animal will show up in the feel, look and shine of the coat.

Here are some tips:

- Too much corn or corn products in a diet will leave the cats coat harsh to the touch- dry and brittle and slow growing.
- Too many oils will leave blackheads- chin ache and grease on the skin and will increase stud tail.
- The proper diet includes meat as the first item on the label- not a meat byproduct or corn.
- The proper diet should not need supplements.

However- if your cats coat is dry and brittle- then it requires moisture and repair. The first step is fixing the diet. It will take about 6 months to go from the cycle of a poor coat to a healthy coat. More on fixing the diet will be explain and taught in one of Anna's upcoming Newsletters. Therefore if you need a fix your coat before 6 months - here are grooming tips!

* Hot Oils- use the Hot oils as per your cats coat from the Grooming Tip Sheet.

Here are the steps: place a hot oil tube into a hot glass of water at the beginning of your bath and set it aside. It will be the proper temperature by the time you are ready for it. After your final rinse- fill the sink with luke warm water. Next open the hot oil and drizzle a few drops to the top of the coat and the balance into the water. Scoop up this water with a cup and pour it over the kitties back to cover from neck to tail. If the kitty is in really dry condition- - simply drain the water and do not even bother to rinse out the hot oil. (make sure this is not a show bath) If the kitty once dry- looks as if no hot oil was ever used and left on the coat- do this process after each bath until you notice a change in the coats feel- look and condition. Please note- if the kitty begins to jump about as you use the hot oil- the oil is too hot.

Some cat breeders take the kitty after the hot oil is applied- wrap them in a towel-and hold them for 10 minutes and then rinse once more.

For an overnight fix: You can put your cat in oil - here is a simple way to do this.

What you will need:

- 2 oz of Healthy Coat Conditioner from Castle Baths
- 1 tube of Hot Oil
- 8 oz of luke warm water

Take your wide tooth comb- dip it into this solution and comb your dry coated kitty. You will need to dip your comb as you continue to comb the dry coat. Then dry the kitty with the dryer and leave sit overnight- 2 nights at most. Kitty should still look wet somewhat once dried. Don't worry the poor kitty will look great once this process is over. Then bath as usual. You can also take this solution and pour it over the cat at the final end of the bath- let sit for 10 minutes and then rinse, rinse, rinse!

If the coat is slightly dry and beginning to get frizzles or static- ESP during the winter show season- try 1/4 teaspoon of Downy Fabric Softener in the final rinse water. Add the Downy to the water- not the cat or it will turn the cat blue and is almost impossible to remove.

You can also use coat or hair conditioners too- use about the size of a nickel- add to the water - not the coat. Scoop the water over the kitty. The reason I say add to the water is to help you rinse fully- conditioner tends to stick to the fur and lay it down.

OK- now this is important...it the coat is taking way too long to dry- it might be over conditioned- this too feels great but grows a tad slow. If the coat is drying in a spiff- it probably doesn't feel like silk. Good healthy coat- feels like rabbit fur and or silk.

[Source: <http://www.purrinlot.com/persian-cat-conditioning.htm>]