Cat Grooming Checklist

A cat grooming checklist for owners covering brushing, nails, ears, dental care and mats.

Gather grooming supplies

- [ ] Choose a brush or comb suited to your cat's coat length.
- [ ] Have cat nail clippers and styptic powder ready.
- [ ] Keep a vet-recommended ear cleaner and soft cotton pads.
- [ ] Prepare a cat toothbrush and cat-safe toothpaste.
- [ ] Set out a non-slip surface and plenty of treats.
- [ ] Pick a calm time when your cat is relaxed.

Brushing the coat

- [ ] Brush in the direction of hair growth to remove loose fur.
- [ ] Be gentle around the belly, legs and tail.
- [ ] Brush long-haired cats every day or two to prevent mats.
- [ ] Increase brushing during heavy shedding seasons.
- [ ] Check the skin for fleas, scabs, lumps or irritation.
- [ ] Keep sessions short and stop before your cat gets stressed.

Preventing and handling mats

- [ ] Check common mat spots: behind ears, armpits and under the tail.
- [ ] Work small tangles loose gently with fingers and a comb.
- [ ] Use a detangling spray made for cats if needed.
- [ ] Never cut mats close to the skin with scissors.
- [ ] Brush regularly to stop new mats from forming.
- [ ] Seek help for tight or widespread mats.
  A professional groomer or your veterinarian can safely remove difficult mats.

Nail trimming

- [ ] Gently press a paw pad to extend each nail.
- [ ] Trim only the clear tip and avoid the pink quick.
- [ ] Do a few nails at a time if your cat gets restless.
- [ ] Keep styptic powder nearby in case of a small cut.
- [ ] Reward your cat with treats and praise throughout.
- [ ] Provide a scratching post to support natural nail care.

Ears and eyes

- [ ] Check ears for redness, odor, dark debris or excess wax.
- [ ] Wipe only the visible part with a vet-recommended cleaner.
- [ ] Never insert cotton swabs into the ear canal.

- [ ] Wipe gently around the eyes with a soft, damp cloth.
- [ ] Note any squinting, discharge or excessive tearing.
- [ ] Report persistent ear or eye problems to your veterinarian.

Dental care

- [ ] Introduce tooth brushing slowly with cat-safe toothpaste.
- [ ] Let your cat lick the toothpaste first to build comfort.
- [ ] Brush gently along the gumline in short sessions.
- [ ] Offer dental treats or toys as a helpful supplement.
- [ ] Watch for bad breath, drooling, red gums or trouble eating.
- [ ] Schedule professional dental checks with your veterinarian.
- [ ] Important: This is general information, not professional advice. Consult a professional groomer for coat-specific grooming and your veterinarian for skin, ear, dental or any health concerns.