

# Comb the Cat, Please!

*What does a cat need besides food and water?*

## Grooming

1 Cats are very clean animals. They use their rough tongues to bathe themselves several times a day. Sometimes they like help, though. To keep a cat's coat in shape, it is a good idea to comb or brush the cat once or twice a week. If you have a long-haired cat, you may need to brush it every day to keep its fur neat.

## Health Care

2 All kittens should visit a vet and get several shots. These shots help prevent common cat illnesses. An adult cat should visit a vet once a year for a check-up and to get booster shots.

3 Unless your family plans to breed and raise cats, your cat should have an operation so that it cannot have kittens. This prevents unwanted kittens from ending up stray or at the animal shelter.



**1.** What do cats do for themselves?

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**2.** What should a cat owner do once a year?

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**3.** Why might a long haired cat need to be brushed more often than a short-haired cat?

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**4.** If you had a cat, would you rather have a short haired cat or a long haired cat? Write why.

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**5.** Why do cats need to have an operation?

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**6.** The text says that cats have rough tongues. How do you think this is helpful when they groom themselves?

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**7.** Is it important to be a responsible cat owner? Explain.

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