



### How to Bath Your Cat

- ❖ Cats groom themselves and rarely need a bath but for various reasons there will be occasions you'll need to bath your kitty.
- ❖ Assemble your supplies before bathing your cat as you will need two hands for this task. You will need a couple of thick towels, shampoo (natural/oatmeal shampoo), cotton balls (to place in ears to prevent water from entering) and 2 cups to rinse shampoo from coat. A hair dryer is optional.
- ❖ It's always best to bath a cat in a confined area such as your bathroom or laundry so if they do try and make an escape they won't get far! Place a non-slip mat or folded towel on the bottom of the sink so they do not slip and slide everywhere.
- ❖ Run about two to three inches of body-temperature water into the sink; just enough to come up to the cat's belly. Test the water on your wrist much like what you would do for a baby's bottle. It should be warm.
- ❖ Place a capful of the shampoo in a cup of the warm water and mix well. This is so the cat is not shocked with the cold shampoo.
- ❖ Pick up your cat and lower them gently but quickly into the water. It helps to talk calmly to your cat whilst doing this and throughout the bathing procedure. You may benefit from getting someone to help you with the bathing.



- ❖ Give your cat a few minutes to relax to the idea that you aren't hurting them then start to pour the warm water through their coat. Alternatively you can use a hand held shower head if you prefer and if it is available. Be careful not to turn the water on too quickly as this may frighten them. Ensure that the whole body is wet but take care not to splash the cat's face. When the cat is soaked, pour the diluted shampoo evenly over their body, again staying away from the face.
- ❖ Massage the shampoo gently into the fur for several minutes or as long as the cat will tolerate. Try to massage the whole body; you may even find them enjoying it!
- ❖ Rinse well, using the warm water and hand held shower hose if applicable. Pour the water over the cat liberally or use the shower head as you would a brush, in long strokes from the base of the neck down over the tail.
- ❖ Give your cat several long patting strokes with your hand to slick away excess water and to test for any remaining soap in the coat. Repeat steps until all evidence of soap is gone. This is the most important process as soap residue can dry out the skin leaving it vulnerable to rashes and infections.
- ❖ With a clean moist sponge, wipe down the back of the head and around the muzzle being careful to avoid the eyes, ears and mouth.
- ❖ Using a large towel, lift the cat out of the sink and pat them down utilising the towel to soak up as much moisture as possible. Gently rub down the cat in a massaging fashion to remove further water from the fur. If the cat will tolerate it, you may use a hair dryer and low speed and low heat to speed up the drying process. You may then leave your cat to continue the drying process themselves.

❖ Provide the cat with a treat and praise their good behaviour.

