

## Cat's Eyes



Periodically taking the time to give your cat's eyes a thorough examination can help prevent problems down the road. Looking closely for tearing, crust, cloudiness, or inflammation can help you spot and address a health problem.

When checking your cat's eyes, be sure to do so in a bright light. The eyes should be clear and the area around the pupil should be white. The pupils should be equal in size. There should be no discharge, watering, red or white eyelid lining (should be pink), crust, or cloudiness. Wipe away any crust from your cat's eyes with a damp cotton ball. Always wipe away from the corner of the eye, and use a fresh cotton ball for each eye. Snip away any long hairs that could block vision or poke her eyes. If you notice discharge, consult your vet. Some common disorders you may see evidence of are conjunctivitis (eyes will look red and swollen), keratitis (eye will look cloudy and watery), glaucoma (eye enlarges due to an increased pressure in the eyeball), or watery eyes (fur around eyes may be stained with tears because of blocked tear ducts).

## Tips for Bathing Your Dog



As most dog parents know, bathing a dog can be complicated work. Knowing how often to bathe your dog, and what tools to have on hand, will make the task easier. How often to give your dog a bath can depend on the breed and activity level. You should only bathe your dog when they are truly dirty. Bathing your dog too often can sometimes cause dry, itchy skin. If you

need to bathe your dog frequently, be sure to use a pet shampoo that will moisturize.

Among the items you should have at the ready for bath time are a raised dog bath, large pitcher, drain screen to prevent hair from clogging your drain, cotton balls to prevent water from entering the dog's ears, pet shampoo, coat conditioner, pet-drying towel, eye protective gel, ear drying solution, brush/comb, pet dryer, and plastic bucket for your supplies.

## Together Forever Portraits

Are you looking for a meaningful way to create a lasting memory of a much loved pet? Is your canine companion your best buddy? Can you capture that special bond that exists between you and your sassy cat? The best way to celebrate the emotional bond you have with your pet is a portrait created from your favorite photo. Nothing says forever like a portrait on canvas!

There is a company that specializes in pet portraiture and they will create for you a lasting tribute that will beautifully express your love for your animal friend:

[Together Forever Portraits](#)



## Safe Dog Home for the Holidays

Pet parents should be vigilant during the holiday season. Some holiday traditions may pose serious threats to your dog. Holly, mistletoe and poinsettia plants are poisonous to dogs. Make sure these plants are kept in places your dog cannot reach. Lights should be kept off of the lower branches of your Christmas tree. They may get very hot and burn your dog. Place electrical cords out of reach. Pets often try to chew them and may suffer shock or electrocution. Avoid glass ornaments, which break easily and may cut a dog's feet or mouth. And do not use edible ornaments, such as cranberry or popcorn strings. Your dog may knock the tree over in an attempt to reach them. If you're burning candles, keep them on high tables or mantels, out of the way of your dog's wagging tail.

## Pet Facts

### Bad Breath in Cats?



While not as famously as their canine counterparts, cats too can experience bad breath (halitosis). In cats, a strong, bad odor usually is a sign of an underlying health problem.

Most often, bad breath is caused by a build-up of bacteria in the mouth. This can be a result of dental or gum disease. Certain cats are especially prone to plaque and tartar. Diet and dermatological issues can also be contributing factors.

However, persistent bad breath can indicate more serious medical problems such as abnormalities in the mouth, respiratory system, gastrointestinal tract, liver or kidneys. In all cases, halitosis is a red flag that should be investigated.

Your veterinarian is the best person to determine the cause of bad breath. A physical examination should reveal the cause. If not, further tests will likely be recommended. You should see the vet if you see excessive brownish tartar on your cat's teeth; the cat has difficulty eating; he has red, inflamed gums; unusually sweet or fruity breath; breath that smells like urine; a foul odor accompanied by vomiting, lack of appetite, and yellow-tinged corneas and/or gums; pawing at the mouth.

Being proactive about your cat's oral health can help avoid problems. You should bring your pet in for regular checkups, make sure your vet monitors and tracks the state of your cat's teeth and breath, brush your cat's teeth frequently, and talk to your vet about feeding a diet that will help to prevent dental disease.

### Complete Natural Nutrition



CompleteNaturalNutrition

Do you care for pets with specific health issues like diabetes, overweight, allergies or restricted diets? Worried about the ingredients and what's really in popular "name brand" pet treats? Frustrated that you can't share what you're eating with your pet?

Torn between telling your pet "No!," when he or she looks at your snack with those longing eyes? Now, you don't have to! Snacks made for pets and humans let you interact with your pet in a more healthy, safe way.

Learn about a company that's making treats (for humans AND pets) that are 100 percent natural and contain no processed food, sugar, salt and refined carbohydrates. Visit [www.completenaturalnutrition.com](http://www.completenaturalnutrition.com)

## Traveling for the Holidays



Traveling any time of year can be stressful for pets and pet owners, especially air travel. The best option is always to leave your pet at home, in the care of a professional pet sitter, where your pet can maintain a normal routine and diet. Although pet professionals do not recommend air travel unless you can take your pet in the cabin, there are a few tips you should follow if

you must fly with your pet.

- Make sure your pet is healthy and all vaccinations are up-to-date. Obtain a health certificate from your veterinarian dated within 10 days of departure.
- Make sure your pet has a microchip for identification and is wearing a collar and ID tag.
- Book a direct flight whenever possible.
- Purchase a USDA-approved shipping crate that is large enough for your pet to stand, sit and turn around in comfortably.
- On the top of the crate, write the name, address and telephone number of your pet's destination point, and whether you will be accompanying him or if someone else is picking him up.

## Pet Facts

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- Gerbils tend to hop rather than run.
- A baby mouse is called a pinky, or a kitten.
- Wild parrots do not imitate. Only pet parrots will mimic people and noises they hear.
- Rabbits can see behind them without turning their heads.
- Frogs are symbols of good luck in Japan.

## FetchDog Dog Supplies



FetchDog provides the highest quality dog supplies and expert information on dogs. Sniff around and you'll find the finest quality dog products and puppy supplies.

They are so sure you'll love their dog supplies, they back everything with a 100% guarantee. Everything FetchDog sells has been slept on, played with, chewed on, eaten or worn by their dogs.

[FetchDog](#) also offers more than the best dog products. The FetchDog Learn & Connect resource is loaded with expert dog information on dog breeds, dog training, dog behavior, dog health and other dog topics.

## Sitter's Corner

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Peepers Pet Watch supports the Community Pet Pantry Program. The Pet Pantry was established by Lee County Domestic Animal Services to temporarily assist pet owners in financial crisis to keep beloved pets in loving, responsible homes rather than surrendered to overcrowded shelters. The Pet Pantry Program provides complimentary pet food and supplies for Lee County residents. The biggest need is for cat food, but dog food is also accepted. Leave your food donation for Peepers Pet Watch to pick up on your next scheduled visit. We deliver it to Animal Services, saving you the time and gas to drop off donations, and we deduct \$1 from your next visit.

Thank you,  
Karen Sloan, owner-operator of Peepers Pet Watch, LLC  
A watchful eye on pets at home when you travel or need a helping hand. Pet Sitting, Dog Walking, Pet Taxi and more for Fort Myers and the Islands.