

Short-Haired Cat

Felis domesticus



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Worshipped as gods, hunted as companions to witches, cats have fascinated us throughout time. Short-haired cats tend to have sleek, shiny coats that come in all colors and combinations. There is even one breed of cat with no hair at all!



Is a cat the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have an appropriate indoor location and space for a cat.
- I will have my cat spayed or neutered.
- I understand that cats that roam outdoors are more at risk for injury, diseases, and accidental death than cats that are kept indoors.
- I can commit to providing proper attention, nutrition and veterinary care for this cat.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this cat.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a cat may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a cat and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Before deciding to purchase a cat, consider adoption!
Your local PETCO will be able to provide you with additional information.

Average Size 8 - 13lbs

Life Span 11-13+ years, with proper care

Diet Carnivorous; most will do very well on any of today's premium cat foods; match food to life stage and activity level; cats, especially males, need premium foods to avoid urinary tract blockages; treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake

Fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily

Feeding Feed 2-3 small meals daily; bored cats will seriously over eat if food is always available

Housing Cats should be kept indoors for their safety and the safety of wild animals, especially song birds

Always have a separate litter box for each cat, with at least one litter box on each level of the cat's home

Provide appropriately sized scratching posts, and opportunities for multi-level play

Normal Behavior and Interaction Playful, especially as kittens; need daily interaction with loving owner to feel secure; rubbing head or body against object or owner is a way of "scent-marking" and saying "This is mine!"
 Growling, hissing or spitting signs of fear or frustration; purring, short meows and squeaks generally show contentment and affection

Scratching or "sharpening claws" is a natural and necessary behavior; save furniture by always providing proper sized scratching posts

Grooming and Hygiene Self-grooming and naturally clean. Trim claws if they snag on carpeting or bedding; occasional treats of hairball preventative recommended. Many PETCOs offer professional grooming services

Brush teeth with cat toothpaste daily for best oral health

Recommended Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Premium cat food	<input type="checkbox"/> Litter box and liners	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming supplies
	<input type="checkbox"/> Food dish	<input type="checkbox"/> Litter and scoop	<input type="checkbox"/> Scratching post
	<input type="checkbox"/> Water dish	<input type="checkbox"/> Toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Book on cat care

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- Popular breeds**
- Siamese** - One of the best known and perhaps most popular of the short-haired breeds; Siamese tend to be vocal, outgoing, and somewhat demanding, but is often recommended for persons with cats allergies
 - Abbyssinian** – Playful, active, friendly and loving, the Abby is a perfect cat for someone looking for devoted, cuddly housemate; Abbys have a unique hair color, with each individual hair having two or three distinct bands of color, a coloration referred to as “Agouti”
 - Burmese** – Most commonly seen in blue or sable, Burmese can actually come in almost any coat color; hardy, intelligent and self-reliant, Burmese are best known for the soft, velvety quality of their short, fine fur
 - Exotic Short-Hair** – This cat is, in essence, a short-haired version of the Persian; flat of face and cobby in the body, they are often referred to as the “Lazy Man’s Persian”
 - Manx** – Although not the only cat with little or no tail, the Manx is perhaps the best known; active, intelligent, and very playful, Manx cats resemble rabbits in many ways, from their soft, silky coat to their long back legs, right down to their almost hopping gait
 - Sphynx** –Made famous by the Austin Powers movies, the Sphynx is all cat, just without hair; care of the Sphynx is identical to all other breeds, except, of course, for the brushing; bathe periodically to prevent oil buildup

- Signs of a Healthy Animal**
- Active and responsive
 - Clean fur
 - Clear eyes and nose
 - Even gaits
 - Clear, unlabored breathing
 - Eats and drinks regularly

Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhea	Loose stools caused by poor diet, stress, unclean housing, or other illness	Consult with a veterinarian to determine cause and treatment. Keep vaccinations current
Mites, fleas, ticks	External parasites; cause itching, loss of hair, certain diseases	Contact a veterinarian for treatment
Hairballs	Coughing, hacking or vomiting	Regular use of hairball preventative. Contact a veterinarian if persistent or losing weight

- Red Flags**
- Missing fur
 - Distressed breathing
 - Lethargic
 - Diarrhea, vomiting
 - Eye or nasal discharge
 - Excessive thirst
 - Uneven gait
 - Weight loss
 - Coughing, hacking

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.

- Sources**
- The New Guide to Cat Care* by Alan Edwards
 - Choosing the Perfect Cat* by Dennis Kelsey-Woods
 - The Humane Society of the United States Complete Guide to Cat Care* by Wendy Christensen

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.