

OCALICOS PERSIANS GROOMING INSTRUCTIONS

By Nancy Duckett

This is written to assist the purchaser with grooming instructions for their new Ocalicos Persian. If you make grooming a DAILY HABIT, followed with love, a treat and/or playtime, your Persian kitten will learn to accept the inevitable body combing and face washing as part of its Persian healthy lifestyle. The sooner you train your Persian, the easier this task will be.

1. The cat/kitten should be gently combed daily with a good quality, wide tooth metal comb. Comb from head to tail paying special attention under the front legs, around the ears, on the tummy and between the back legs. These areas are where mats occur easiest so daily combing is essential! In addition to the metal comb, on these delicate areas, you may want to use a pin brush with no "balls" on the ends of the pins as this can pull out fur. A small "slicker" brush for under the arms is also helpful.

2. Wash the area around the cat's eyes daily with a tissue, clean wash cloth or cotton ball moistened with warm water. Then dry the fur. You may also dampen a tissue with an Eye Wash Irrigation Solution and wash the fur with this. The Eye Wash Irrigation Solution can be found in any pharmacy "over the counter" and is made specifically for irrigating the human eye itself and is safe for your cats eye. A recommended product for this is: Bausch & Lomb Advanced Eye Relief Eye Irrigating Solution. This solution contains small amounts of boric acid & salts which help reduce fur stains.

3. After the eye area is somewhat dried, you can apply a powder to help absorb new tearing stains. A simple homemade powder consists of 50% Boric Acid Powder mixed with 50% common kitchen cornstarch. This dry powder is applied around the eye area with a small, soft cosmetic brush or cotton swab. Pack the powder into the fur well. Avoid getting the powder into the eye itself but it won't hurt if a little gets into the eye. There are many products on the market which improve tear stains. I recommend the following two powders: Gempaw Under Eye Grooming Powder can be purchased at a very reasonable price from gempaw2006@yahoo.com. Mrs. Frances Brown has developed this Gempaw Eye Grooming powder after showing bi-color & solid white Persians for several years and it really works well for absorbing tearing and preventing stains. Another product I highly

recommend is Eye Envy. Please visit www.eyeenvy.com for information on the liquid stain remover and eye powder they offer. This product safely REMOVES staining. It is a miracle product for white or bi-color Persians.

4. Bi-monthly you should clean inside your Persian's ears with a cotton swab or cotton ball taking care not to go into the ear too deeply. You can also clean the erect part of the ear with a warm moistened washcloth to eliminate any dirt or wax build up. I also use the brand "Vet Solutions" ear cleansing solution which you can purchase at your vet's office. Your vet can also instruct you on proper ear cleaning procedures.
5. Hopefully you have provided a good scratching post for your Persian, but even then your cat's claws both front and back should be clipped once or twice a month. Your veterinarian can also teach you how to clip the claws. A cat nail clipper is inexpensive and relatively easy to manipulate once you know how.
6. For a "pet" Persian that grooms itself well, you will probably only need to bath it once a month. If your cat is not a good self groomer, then bath twice a month. A show kitten/cat should be bathed once a week. Step one is to comb the cat thoroughly leaving no mats. Bathing a cat with mats will not make them disappear! If you have mats present that you simply cannot remove by combing or splitting, place the teeth of the comb between the cat's skin and the mat. Then run the scissors on TOP of the comb and cut under the mat. This will prevent cutting the tender skin. If mats have gotten out of hand, you may want to have a professional groomer resolve the problem by clipping the fur on the tummy, under the arms and legs, and around the "rear end".
7. For the monthly (or bi-monthly) maintenance bath, I recommend Ivory Liquid Dishwashing Detergent. Dawn, Joy and Palmolive are very drying to the coat. Mix 1 part Ivory to 7 parts warm water. Wet the cat down well first with warm water then apply the Ivory mix. Thoroughly wash the entire cat's body avoiding the eye area. Don't be afraid to scrub the feet, between the toes, legs, tail and around the ears where oil glands secrete. Rinse the cat thoroughly with warm water. I prefer to clean the eye and face area with a "tearless" baby type shampoo by hand with a washcloth and rinsed

with a wet washcloth as well. If your cat was really dirty or greasy then repeat this process. It is VERY important to rinse, rinse, rinse, rinse well! Rinse until no suds appear in the sink. A deep sink with hose nozzle sprayer is most effective for a thorough rinse!

8. For the final shampoo you can use any “human” hair shampoo always diluted at least 1 part to 7 parts water. Cat hair is NOT like human hair ... it is fur and different shampoos affect the final result. Some shampoos have too much conditioner or additives and you may not be pleased with the results. Most effective are CAT shampoos like: Bio-Groom, Pet Silk, Eqyss, Tomlyn, etc . Always read bottle instructions for dilution! Persians have different types of coats ... some long & silky, some cottony, some with undercoats, some with short tabby type coats. Depending on what “type” of coat your Persian has, you may have to experiment with different shampoos to determine which works best on your cat’s coat. Once again, after applying this final shampoo, always rinse thoroughly! Some Persians with cottony coats require an additional conditioning rinse after the shampoo. Always follow bottle instructions for dilutions.
9. Towel dry by blotting and squeezing the coat. Don’t rub too vigorously or you may tangle the wet fur. Dry the cat thoroughly with a hair dryer set on low or medium heat. It is extremely important the cat be dried completely! If allowed to simply “air dry”, you may be unpleasantly surprised with matting under the arms, around the rear, etc. Use a hair dryer that is as quiet as possible. It is usually the noise of the dryer that is most frightening to a cat. I use three different types of dryers for my show cats: Air Force Two Speed Dryer (set on low), a table Oster Dryer with 3 settings and also a hand help isotonic portable hair dryer (people type).
10. To do a thorough job, the whole bathing/grooming process can take up to 3 hours depending on coat type. A well-groomed cleanly presented Persian will bring high approval of judges in the show ring. If you are maintaining a pet Persian, you will find that a clean, well groomed cat is a HEALTHY pet. Take pride in your Persian and show your love by keeping your cat well groomed.

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Recommended Products:

I buy a lot of my combs, brushes, shampoos, conditioners and dryers from www.PetEdge.com (800-738-3343). They carry most of the supplies I prefer.

Shampoos: Bio-Groom Super White Shampoo, Eqyss Premier Shampoo, Tomlyn Sho Sno Shampoo, Pet Silk Bright White Shampoo, #1 All Systems Professional formula whitening/brightening shampoo. Since I show bi-color Persians (with white) I like to use whitening shampoos to brighten the white fur and control stains. Suave Daily Clarifying Shampoo is effective and inexpensive for maintenance use.

Conditioners: Bio Groom Silk Crème Conditioning Rinse, Eqyss Premier Crème Rinse, Pet Silk Moisturizing Conditioner, #1 All Systems Super Rich Protein Lotion Conditioner, Eqyss Premier Rehydrant Spray. I love the finish and smell of Suave Coconut Conditioner 1 to 7 water.

Dryers: Oster Hi-Velocity Adjustable Table/Cage Dryer, Metro 2-Speed Air Force Commander Dryer Model FTD-1, Andis Comfort Dry Ionic/Ceramic Pet Dryer with adjustable stand.

Try www.ChrisSystems.com for their shampoo "White-on-white", Thick N Thicker Volume Response Foaming Protein conditioner. They also offer wonderful 20mm oblong pin brush and fantastic metal combs: buttercomb #000 fine/coarse teeth 7 ½" long, buttercomb #014 All coarse teeth 4 ½" long, #011-F all fine teeth 3" comb with 3 ½" handle as a wonderful comb for feet, legs and face.

Eye products: Gempaw Eye Grooming Powder gempaw2006@yahoo.com
Eye Envy Stain Removing Liquid & Powder www.eyeenvy.com