



I hope you find the following information helpful:

As pet owners and professional pet carers we are obliged under the animal welfare Act 2006 to give appropriate care and attention to the animals in our care.



**1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST**

All animals should have fresh clean food available to them daily to maintain good health and should have access to clean fresh drinking water at all times.

**2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT**

All animals should be provided with an appropriate environment where shelter is available to allow them to rest and be comfortable.

**3. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS**

All animals should be kept in a manner that keeps them feeling safe at all times.

**4. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY AND DISEASE**

All animals should remain disease free and should see a vet if any problem should occur.

## 5. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

All animals should be provided with the right facilities to encourage and allow natural behaviour.

By handling and grooming your pet regularly you can ascertain:

1. Parasites
2. Disease
3. Skin conditions.
4. Coat quality
5. General wellbeing.

All these things can be checked by you as a pet owner.

A general Health check of your pet.

Always start with the coat and then work from the head down. Then you can ensure that you haven't missed anything.

### 1 Check Coat and skin,

Checking for Ectoparasites (Parasites that live on the outside of the body) Signs of Fleas (Ctenocephalides cati, cat fleas can be found on both cats and dogs.) Flea faeces is usually found and looks like tiny black specks.



Flea

Lice can also live on your pet if the coat is unkept,



Louse

Lice can be seen with the naked eye.

Ticks are a parasite that attaches itself to your pet and gorges on their blood, once full it will drop off. But it is a vector for other diseases such as Lyme disease, so we need to remove them as soon as possible. You can buy a tick remover from your vets or on line, they are cheap to buy.



Ear mites can cause great pain and discomfort to your pet, signs are swelling, and redness, weeping, smelly and black/pus discharge from the ear canal. Head shaking can be seen in severe cases, ear mites are also zoonotic. Seek veterinary treatment for the ear mites.

If your cat comes into the cattery with signs of Ecto or/and endo parasites, we will treat accordingly.

Once you have checked through the coat run your hands and fingers all through the coat and skin, this will allow you to feel any tangles but also for any unusual lumps or bumps on your pet. As pets get older they can develop lumps just as us humans do, if your concerned about any that you find seek veterinary advice. By parting the coat you will be able to see the skin, which should look clean and healthy free from dirt and dandruff.

## **2. Check eyes, nose and mouth and ears.**

- Eyes: Should be clear and bright. No discharge, no bulging of the eye ball or cloudy eye.  
Eye lids should be correct, Entropion is when the eye lid turns in, which can cause the eye lashes to rub on the cornea of the eye and causing weeping and possibly lead to ulceration of the cornea. Ectropion is where the eye lid protrudes outwards and can cause ulcers on the eye also by not being able to shut the eye properly the eye becomes dry, sore and ulcerated.
- Nose: Should be moist and clear of discharge.
- Mouth: check teeth regularly for tartar build up. Gums should be a nice salmon pink colour with no swellings or lumps.
- Ears: Check the inside and outside of the ear flap for lumps or bumps. Look down the ear canal for any discharge.

## **3. Paws, Claws and Limbs**

- Paws: Feel around the pads making sure there are no mats or foreign bodies in-between them. No cuts or abrasions.
- Claws: Providing a scratch post can assist your cat in keeping its claws in good condition and encourage your cat to scratch on the post and not on the furniture.!
- Limbs. Your pet's legs should be free from lumps and bumps, although geriatric pets can become a little unsteady on their legs and can develop arthritis.

## **4. Tail End Charlie**

The final check is the bottom of your pet, not pleasant but very necessary.

- Check that the anus is free from abnormal lumps and that the coat around is clean and not matted. Your pet should defecate and urinate normally, if you see signs that your cat is straining to urinate seek veterinary attention immediately.

Many everyday products are poisonous to cats:

Common houseplants -- as well as ones that you may bring into your home -- can be hazardous to your cat's health:

- Aloe
- Azaleas
- Chrysanthemums

- Lilies
- Marijuana
- Mistletoe
- Poinsettia
- Rhododendron
- Tulips

### **Insecticides and Other Chemicals**

Some chemicals taste especially good to cats. To prevent accidental pet poisoning, keep these and all chemicals locked away:

- Antifreeze
- Bleach
- Detergents
- De-icing salts (which pets may walk through, then lick from their pads)
- Dog flea and tick medication (pills, collars, sprays, shampoos)
- Fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Insect and rodent bait