

Pearlhearts Cattery Useful Kitten Information

Many people don't realise how high of maintenance Sphynx cats can be, and often times aren't completely "prepared" with what may come. It's very important to watch after your kitten/cat's hygiene, and make sure he/she is always groomed.

You may already know that Sphynx need to be washed at least once a week, as they get very oily and dirty, but it mainly depends on your pet, as some get filthy more quickly than others, but if you want to be able to sleep with your kitten/cat, and pet him/her, then he/she needs to be washed 2-3 times a week in order to keep the skin clean, or else it will look grimy and feel like it too. I wash my Sphynx in the sink, and use very warm water to wash and rinse them. I recommend "Johnson's Baby Shampoo," as it is very gentle on the skin, and doesn't irritate it as much as other shampoos might. You can buy it at any grocery store. This is enough to maintain the skin's health, although some people do deal with dry skin. If your kitten/cat does ever have dry skin, some coconut oil will help keep it moisturised, and it isn't harmful either. Cleaning ears is also very important, and should be done once a week, or else too much oil and dirt build-up will induce ear infections, and other problems. I use q-tips dipped in "Zymox Ear Cleanser" to easily wipe away all the dirt, which can be bought on Amazon. Just use the q-tips and clean out all of the visibly dirty areas, carefully.

Clipping nails is also important to do, and trimming them once a week is about how often it should be done. I find that using plain scissors is the easiest method, as long as you don't cut past the quick (the pinkest part, where the blood vessels are). You'll also find that a lot of dirt builds up between the claws and cat pads, and you can use a towel to clean between each pad.

Sphynx are also prone to getting watery eyes, as they catch colds very easily, and an ointment I use to clear up any eye problems is "Terramycin," which can also be bought on Amazon. If your kitten/cat has an eye infection that lasts for more than 3 days without any improvement from the "Terramycin," then it is very important to see the vet because it is possible for some eye infections to be bad enough to cause blindness. Your vet will provide antibiotic eyedrops to clear up any infection. If your kitten/cat does ever catch a cold, a round of "Clavamox" or "Amoxicilin" will clear up any problems, such as a stuffy nose, which can be requested from your vet. From experience, I've found that "Amoxicilin" works better than "Clavamox". To keep your pet warm to prevent colds, it is vital to have a heater in your kitten/cat's bed, and even turned on in the house. I keep the "Sunbeam 731-500 Heating Pad with UltraHeat Technology" in my cats' beds on at all times to keep them warm, which can be bought on Amazon as the rest of the products I've recommended, and it doesn't automatically turn off, like many heaters. I find that it is easiest to keep these heating pads in a cat cube; plus they love these kinds of beds! Keeping your kitten/cat dressed to prevent any sicknesses is also important, especially during the wintertime. Many sweaters for kittens/cats can be found on eBay.

For food, I use "Purina One Tender Selects Dry Cat Food," which I too buy on Amazon. Many breeders use raw food as the main source of diet, but after talking with different vets, I believe that it can be unhealthy and even harmful to the animal because of the disease-causing bacteria that may still be alive in the meat; plus I had diarrhea issues with my cats eating raw, so I've decided to steer away from it. I occasionally give them "Fancy Feast Wet Cat Food" as a

treat, about once or twice a week, and they love it! “PureBites” freeze dried meats are also good as treats, and they can be bought on Amazon or Petco. When you first get your kitten/cat, you may notice that he/she isn’t eating, and this may go on for about a couple of days, but this is very normal as the kitten/cat adjusts to his/her new home. If your kitten/cat ever has ongoing diarrhea, it is important to check for giardia, which is a parasite that can be found in cats, but can be cleared with some “Metronidazole” from the vet. If it is giardia, it will be important to clean out the litter box with bleach and change the litter every day. If your kitten/cat sleeps in some kind of cat bed, then you will need to cover it with a towel of some sort, and change it every day so that the bacteria doesn’t spread. You will need to do this for about a week. If it is not giardia, then some probiotics will help the kitten/cat’s digestive system. I use “Purina Fortiflora Feline Nutritional Supplement Box” that you can order on Amazon, and sprinkle half the packet over the kitten/cat’s food once a day, for 7 days.

For litter, I use “Purina Tidy Cats 24/7 Performance” (it has a red cover), which you can buy at Walmart. This litter works best for me, as it gives off less of an odour, and clumps very well. You may also notice that your kitten/cat doesn’t use the bathroom when first getting him/her, but this, just like not eating, is normal while the kitten/cat adjusts, which can take a couple of days, as I mentioned earlier. When the kitten/cat is ready, though, he/she will take care of all needed business!

I hope all of this information proves helpful :)