

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'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, 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 he/she 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 using Baby Johnson's shampoo, as it is very gentle on the skin, and doesn't irritate it as much as other shampoos might.

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 does ever catch a cold, a round of Clavamox or Amoxicillin will clear up any problems, which can be requested from your vet. From experience, I've found that Amoxicillin works much better than Clavamox. To keep your pet warm to prevent colds, it is vital to have a heater in your kitten'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 dressed to prevent any sicknesses is also important, especially during the wintertime! Many sweaters can be found on eBay.

For food, I use Purina One dry 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 bacteria that may still be alive in the meat, and not carry all of the nutrients needed by the cat; plus I had diarrhea issues with my cats eating raw, so I've decided to steer away from it. I occasionally give them Purina One wet food as a treat, about once or twice a week; they love it! When you first get your kitten, 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 adjusts to his/her new home.

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 doesn't use the bathroom when first getting him/her, but this, just like not eating, is normal while the kitten adjusts, which can take a couple of days, as I mentioned earlier. When the kitten is ready, though, he/she will take care of all needed business!

I hope all of this information proves helpful :)