

BURNBRAE CATTERY

BURNBRAE CATTERY INFORMATION SHEET

DIET:

I make dry cat food available at all times. Burnbrae recommends Royal Canin. If you wish to change to another dry food there are many high quality dry food brands – Iams, Max, Science Diet, and Purina Pro Plan.

Treats: Canned cat food is fed as a treat occasionally. Whiskas and Fancy Feast have been favorites with many of our cats/kittens. Meat baby food- turkey, chicken etc... is another favorite treat. Our best treat is Nature's Variety – a raw frozen diet food – chicken or beef.

For any dietary change I recommend mixing the new and old food together for one week to avoid diarrhea associated with a dietary change.

A bowl of fresh water (changed daily) should always be available. The new water fountains are excellent choices to encourage your cat to drink more water.

HOUSING:

Our cats are allowed free run in the house and are NEVER allowed outside. It is possible to discourage jumping on kitchen counters/dining tables etc by shouting “NO” accompanied by loud sharp hand claps. They are so interested in your affection that this proves to be very effective at discouraging unwanted behavior. Scratching posts are very important and your house should have at least one (pet stores sell many styles of them). A cat leaves a special scent when it scratches so it will always return to the same post each time. It is important to show them the post in a new home and take them back there if they ever start to scratch at another spot.

I recommend at least one litter pan per floor of your house. Try to keep their location the same (so the cat ALWAYS knows where to go!) We use clumping type litter (we like Dr Elsey's and World's Best Cat Litter). Be careful not to allow a cat with wet paws (after a bath for example) into this type of litter - if they clean it away with their mouths this can cause digestive problems. There is no problem with dry paws.

Use a metal scoop to clean the pans each morning and/or evening. The cleaner the pan the more likely they will use it well! (Another hint: Use supermarket plastic bags for collecting the waste).

GROOMING:

Combing: The more you comb a long haired cat the better. It's the best way to collect hair before it sheds and keeps fur from matting. Always use a good steel comb and gently comb and pet the cat. Their tummies are often a little tricky to get to but a firm hold under their front legs will normally work.

Bathing: I recommend washing your cat as often as is practical but aim for every 4-6 weeks. This not only keeps them nice and clean but also helps their fur stay healthy.

If you want to wash the cat yourself, as opposed to using a grooming service, here are some tips: First, thoroughly wet the cat to the skin with lukewarm water and then apply a line of shampoo down their back. Gently work in the shampoo as you would on your own head and then rinse thoroughly. Most regular shampoos will work and Dawn dish liquid is very good for greasy spots like the ruff, tail and behind the ears.

Once a cat is rinsed thoroughly I squeeze excess water from them and wrap them in a towel. At this point I will clean the ears gently with cotton swabs (Q-Tips) and clip their claws with nail clippers. (Just take the very tips off and avoid clipping anywhere near any pinkness in the claw). To dry a cat use as powerful a hair dryer as possible - but don't use it on a high heat. If the cat tires of all this fuss before you finish, I recommend short breaks with a light combing that is pleasurable to the cat. I tend to tell them how beautiful they look as I believe they understand and may tend to put up with me as I apparently am getting some pleasure even if they are not!

Daily care involves a wiping of the face and sometimes the ruff if they are messy eaters! Use a face towel with cool water to wipe the eye area gently. Once a day may be necessary for some cats.

Keep an eye on the coat for matting and gently comb out if they appear to be matting up. I find that a gentle approach can actually simulate stroking and the cat will learn to love their daily care routine.

Please always feel free to call us to ask ANY questions at all.

SUPPLIES LIST

Cat carrier
Litter pan and litter
Dry food
Dishes for food and water
Steel comb
Scratching Post
Shampoo
Nail clippers