

Good Grooming

Even fastidious cats have a hard time keeping all their hairs in place, and mats form in places that are hard for your cat to reach. Mats are clumps of loose hair that become tangled into the hair that is still growing. They continue to attract more hair and grow larger and larger, until they painfully pull and pinch at your cat's skin. Mats will grow to a more unmanageable size if they are not removed.

To prevent matting, concentrate your combing on the areas more likely to mat.

These areas are:

- Armpits
- Abdomen
- Behind the ears
- The tail
- Under the tail
- Behind the back legs

The best way to remove mats is:

- Try to comb the mat out with a coarse metal comb by starting at the outer edge and then working in closer to the skin.
- If you cannot get a comb through the mat, try to work your fingers through to separate the hairs.
- If the cat is in pain from the pulling or if you are not making any progress, work a comb between the skin and the mat.
- Cut the hair along the comb on the side away from the skin. This will prevent you from cutting the cat's skin.
- Gently comb out the shorter remaining hairs.