



# Creature Features

## Client Newsletter

For Pet's Sake

[www.ForPets-Sake.com](http://www.ForPets-Sake.com)

[info@ForPets-Sake.com](mailto:info@ForPets-Sake.com)

### Clean Cats and Dirty Dog

While indoor pets are usually self-cleaning and not much trouble, there are those pets that will roll in mud (or worse), lie in oil on driveways, or just explore the kitchen and find their head in a box of Bisquick! In times like those, it's time for the dreaded bath.

Here are some simple steps to approach bath time:

**Be prepared.** You'll need pet shampoo; a large fluffy towel; a brush and comb; drain screen to catch fur, and either a handheld shower head or plastic tumbler for wetting and rinsing. Comb pet's hair and trim nails before bathing.



**Ready your station.** Use a large sink with a dish sprayer attachment, the bathtub, or buy a raised dog bath (for large pets, use a hose in a grassy area). Get water lukewarm before you put the pet in. Dress appropriately in clothes that can get soiled, yet protect you from scratches.

**Start the suds.** Wet down your pet, starting from the head and working your way to the tail. Apply the shampoo the same way, lather, and rinse thoroughly. (Read the label directions on medicated shampoos carefully. Some require 5 to 15 minutes before a thorough rinsing in order to be effective.)

**Drying a pet.** Squeeze excess water out of pet's fur, wrap them in a large fluffy towel, and dry them off.

### Keeping Pets Fit, not Fat

**Consult your vet.** Diets can change depending on age and medical conditions.

**Measure food amounts.** A "bowl-full" is too vague, so ask a vet for correct portions.

**Establish mealtimes.** If food is available all day, your pet may eat out of boredom.

**Ban table scraps.** They're high in fat and calories and could cause digestive problems.

**Limit food rewards.** Pets love treats, but also respond to walks, play time, and spending time with you.



### Cat Chow Cookies Recipe

1 C. whole-wheat flour  
1/4 C. soy flour  
1/4 C. milk  
1/3 C. powdered milk  
1 egg  
2 T. wheat germ  
2 T. molasses  
2 T. margarine  
1 t. organic catnip

Mix flours, milks, egg, wheat germ, molasses, margarine and catnip. Lightly flour a rolling pin. Roll out the batter on a greased cookie sheet. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Bake 20 to 22 minutes at 350°F. Cool before serving. Store the leftovers in an airtight container.

### Cat Cookies Recipe

1 C. whole wheat flour  
1/4 C. soy flour  
1 t. catnip  
1 egg  
1/3 C. milk  
2 T. wheat germ  
1/3 C. powdered milk  
1 T. unsulfured molasses  
2 T. butter or vegetable oil

Mix dry ingredients together. Add molasses, egg, oil and milk. Roll onto oiled cookie sheet and cut into small, cat bite-sized pieces. Bake for 20 minutes at 350°F. Let cool and store in tightly sealed container.



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## Dog Breath?

Brushing teeth regularly isn't just for humans! Pets should have their teeth brushed at least every week (starting early makes it less challenging as the pet ages) and have regular check-ups with their vet. Keep in mind that dogs 3 years and older have an 85% chance of getting some form of gum disease, so it's best to keep an eye out for potential problems.



### Look for these common dental problems:

- Loss of appetite and weight loss
- Red, swollen and bleeding gums
- Drooling
- Blood in the saliva
- Yellow-brown tartar at the gum line
- Broken teeth
- Foul breath
- Difficulty chewing

### How to Keep Teeth Clean

**Toothpaste:** Yes, they make paste for pets, just be sure not to substitute your tube as human paste is meant to be spit out.

**Toothbrush:** For dogs that have an aversion, try mixing garlic salt with water, and dip an old toothbrush into it. Hold the brush, and let your dog lick or chew the brush. The dog will realize that a toothbrush is good and that it tastes good.

**Rope:** People have floss, dogs have rope. Since a toothbrush reaches most places on a dog, the places where it doesn't will benefit from a cotton rope.

**Professional Cleaning:** For general check-ups, a vet is your best bet. They also as a vet will anesthetize your pet, scrape all of the plaque buildup from above and below the gumline, and then polish the teeth.

## Sitter's Corner

### For Pet's Sake ...

### Flu Season to Flea Season

With spring upon us, it's time to keep an open eye for warning signs that fleas are piggybacking on our favorite pets!

Fleas feed on blood and cause symptoms such as: skin irritation, allergic reactions, anemia, scratching, and tiny black specks, which could indicate flea eggs.

Whenever your pet has been outdoors, always inspect him when he comes back inside. Be thorough! Check between their toes, behind and in ears, armpits, head, and tail. Use a flea comb to catch any fleas you might have missed.

Inside your home you can make a simple flea trap. Fill a shallow dish about halfway with water. Add a few drops of dish washing soap. Place the dish on the floor or a table and set a light above it. The fleas will be attracted to it, fall in and drown.

In the yard, remove dead plants and clear excess brush. These are ideal places for fleas and ticks to thrive.

## Pet Facts

- When a cat drinks, its tongue - which has tiny barbs on it - scoops the liquid up backwards.
- Cats lose almost as much fluid in the saliva while grooming themselves as they do through urination.
- If a cat is frightened, the hair stands up fairly evenly all over the body; when the cat threatens or is ready to attack, the hair stands up only in a narrow band along the spine and tail.
- Cats have more than one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
- An American Animal Hospital Association poll showed that 33 percent of dog owners admit that they talk to their dogs on the phone or leave messages on an answering machine while away.
- Every known dog except the chow has a pink tongue - the chow's tongue is jet black.

