

## Vet Hospital Offers Free Cat Exams

**VCA encourages cat owners to manage their cat's health with free first exams, free cat food and free cat heartworm medicine.**

Posted: July 21, 2011, 3 a.m. EDT

VCA Animal Hospitals wants you to bring your cat to the vet, and is offering a free cat vet exam to help.

VCA Animal Hospitals believes that when it comes to understanding our emotions and improving owner health, one pet seems to stand above all the rest: cats. Cats, hospital representatives say, have an intuitive understanding of cat owners' needs and feelings, and cats provide a unique pet-to-owner relationship that often goes unmatched.

Cat owners should know cats' needs, just as the cats appear to do for cat owners. VCA Animal Hospitals is calling attention to the importance of cat health with a media push that offers helpful cat health and cat grooming tips.

In addition, now through August 31, 2011, VCA Animal Hospitals is offering free first exams for cats, a special cat food offer from Hills and free first doses of cat heartworm prevention medication (with the purchase of six doses). [Click here for more information.](#)

Some cat health tidbits from VCA include information on cat diabetes.

Diabetes mellitus is the second most common endocrine disease in cats.

Cat diabetes occurs more frequently in middle to old-age cats and is more common in male cats than female cats.

Clinical signs seen in diabetic cat patients include an increase in water consumption and urination, and weight loss. Some cats exhibit an increased appetite, too.

Medical clinical signs of cat diabetes include persistently elevated blood glucose concentration and the presence of glucose in the cat's urine.

Treatment of cat diabetes includes appropriate insulin dosages, removal of any predisposing causes for the diabetes and feeding the cat a well-balanced diet high in protein and low in carbohydrates.

VCA also provides cat grooming tips.

Health and nutrition influence the luster and texture of your cat's coat from the inside.

A healthy cat will not shed excessively and will have a shiny coat that is free from dandruff or greasiness.

All cats benefit from regular brushing to remove loose hair and dead skin cells, to keep the coat free of dirt, debris and external parasites, and to distribute natural skin oils along the cat's hair shafts.

Inspect your cat's coat every day to make sure there are no tangles or clumps that have developed under the cat's armpits, in the cat's groin or behind the cat's ears.

Stiff bristle brushes will help remove loose hairs from cats with short coats or sparse undercoats, while long-toothed metal combs or brushes are useful to remove loose hair and smooth minor tangles in medium-haired and longhaired cats.

Instead of bathing a cat at home, many people choose to take their cat to a professional groomer for bathing or have their veterinarian sedate the cat to be groomed at the veterinary clinic.