ALTAI BLANCHE / FAMILY GUIDE

Grooming Your Siberian: A Gentle Start

A calm approach to brushing, handling, and the care that keeps a long coat comfortable.

Begin with comfort

A Siberian's coat benefits from regular attention, but grooming should feel safe to the cat. Begin when your kitten is relaxed. Touch one easy area, such as the shoulder or back, for a moment, then reward calm behavior. Let the kitten move away if they wish.

Build the routine in small steps

- Show a soft brush or comb and allow the kitten to investigate it.
- Make one or two gentle strokes in an easy area; reward and stop while things are still going well.
- Gradually include the chest, sides, tail, and areas that tend to tangle, one area at a time.
- Check the coat and skin as you groom. Ask your veterinarian about irritation, parasites, or painful areas.

Paws and nails

Practice brief paw touches before you try clipping a nail. When your cat is comfortable, clip only the clear tip with a cat nail trimmer. If you cannot see the quick clearly or your cat resists, ask your veterinary team to demonstrate.

Mats and bathing

Work out only small, loose tangles gently. Never cut a mat close to the skin with scissors; cat skin is easily injured. A tight or extensive mat needs help from a veterinarian or qualified groomer. Healthy cats usually do not need routine baths. If bathing is necessary, use a cat-safe product and a calm, gradual introduction; ask your veterinarian what is appropriate for your cat.

When to pause

A swishing tail, flattened ears, tense posture, attempts to leave, or a sudden change from accepting touch to resisting are reasons to stop. Try a shorter session later. Persistent distress or a new dislike of touch warrants a veterinary check because discomfort or illness may be involved.

A simple grooming kit

- A soft brush for early practice and a comb suited to your cat's coat.
- Cat nail trimmers, treats, and a non-slip surface.
- A calm place where your cat can step away at any time.

Further reading

International Cat Care: Caring for your new kitten

VCA: Grooming and coat care for your cat

VCA: How to bathe your kitten