Cat Grooming Part 3

Part Three: Handling, products, tools, and injuries. Let's start off with minimal restraint, the protected groomer and a calm cat. I want you to notice on this photo here are the boundaries., The cat is in a dog bed. The bed creates a boundary for the cat. It’s why I use towels. I will form a border around the cat. Look at some of the other things that this groomer in this picture is using. She's using the bite Buster gloves, which don't necessarily work for everyone. Because like myself, it causes a rash. So I instead I use a sweatshirt, a little heavier sweatshirt to protect my arms from the scratches. You can also see up by the thumb are Kevlar gloves. What I much prefer instead of the Kevlar gloves are Frisk gloves. These are gloves used by police officers to frisk down people and they don't want to run the risk of being stuck by a hypodermic needle. The best brand from that is blauer, you can find them at any supply store.

I don't scruff cats because the pressure point that kittens have is not active in an adult cat. It doesn't do anything to calm the cat. In fact can piss them off. They make these like little clip things, please don't use them. What they do is they actually pinch a nerve. You are causing harm to the cat.

I don’t loop cats. Their necks are very fragile. If they jump while attached to the loop, they can snap their neck fairly easily. There's a product out there, it's shows a lot of promise. It's called the track saver. Cats do better with minimal restraint.

in in the workbook, there is a really good article that I put in there from Anita Kelsey, on scruffing. I do recommend taking the time to read that.

There are humane restraints, okay. So how do you protect yourself from a cat biting you? We have some muzzles here. The picture in the center with the pink muzzle that covers the entire face, I don't particularly care for this type of muzzle because I have been bitten through it. I can't see the eyes. I can't tell if the of the eyes are dilated, it's really hard to tell this cat is drooling or panting and the other reason I dislike his muzzle is because the whiskers are consistently touching the face. That can put the cat into overload. I use a lot of towels and you can use a towel as a distraction. The last picture there again shows those protective sleeves. Me personally I can't wear them because they cause a rash. I much prefer instead using a heavy sweatshirt along with the friisk gloves. Having an assistant. A trained assistant can also be another avenue for you. And my favorite is happy hoodies and I'll get to that momentarily. But the other two photos so show a version of the E collars. You're not impeding the whiskers on this cat. You can see if the cat is drooling and you can tell if they The eyes are dilated or not.

My go to is the happy hoodie. Happy hoodie is very snug, it hits the pressure points along the side of the ears which are more calming. The whiskers are on the outside of this happy hoodie. I can see the eyes I can hear the cat breathing. And this cat can still bite, but is going to have to bite through the happy hoodie.

Towels again, they like to bury themselves in the towels they hear no evil, See No Evil. Nothing is going on here and nothing to look at. Always, always be prepared for the cat who says this groom is not happening today. Some cats unfortunately need to be groomed at the vet's office under sedation. In my 20 plus years of cat grooming, there's been two cats, I've had some refer out to veterinarians.

Grooming in a calm manner, using the least amount of restraint possible is always the best option. I have found hard to handle cats. For the most part, the magic number has always been three. It takes about three grooms for them to get what's going on. That is not harmful for them, for them to relax and accept the grooming. It is important as a cat groomer to know when to stop the groom. This is where waivers come in so that clients and owners understand that you are not going to groom until the cat passes out, or has a heart attack. That as professionals, we know when to stop this growth.

Let's go into products and the importance of labeling. It is up to the manufacturer to determine if the product is cat safe or not. Did the manufacturer actually do the correct testing? Did they do the correct research? Or did they google it? Or did they try it on their own cat and cat seems to be fine. This is why I prefer full ingredient listing because you know what? I can do my own research. Especially when it comes to essential oils which is going to be the biggest problem anyway. Cats have what is called an altered glucuronidation pathway to their liver. What that means is they simply lack the enzymes to metabolize a lot of products that are normally safe for both dogs and people. So instead of metabolizing it out of their body is instead stored in their livers and kidneys. And it may not be the first, second, third or fifth time. That is a problem. It can be sixth, seventh eighth. You may be using a product and the cat does not have a reaction. But that's because it hasn't built up enough into their bodies to cause an overt reaction to it. The biggest problem is going to be essential oils in any given product. There are hydrosols. A hydrosols is a steam distillate of an essential oil and doesn't contain the pthalates and it's the pthalates of the essential oil. That's the problem. As a general rule, I don't use any product that contains an essential oil if I'm going to use it on a cat, nor do I diffuse essential oils around cats, because essential oils have the respiratory droplets in the air. For some essential oils, it's the problem for cats, maybe respiratory, it may be topical and maybe ingested. So essential oils diffused in the air will cover all of those for the most part. Diffused respiratory droplets are in the air, they land on the cat skin that's topical lands on the cat skin and cat licks it it's ingested. I just err on the side of caution. And I don't use any essential oils in any form when I'm grooming cats

Sanitation, Respiratory illnesses are highly contagious. So part of this is not grooming sick cats. Any cats that have discharges from eyes or nose can have maybe respiratory issues. It'll be up to you whether or not what your protocols are regarding immunizations for the more common respiratory illnesses. But sanitation is really important. And here we're running into the surfaces that a cat has access to. You need to make sure that surface is rinsed well so that the cats don't absorb the disinfectant or the cleaner through the pads of their paws. I get around that by using table covers. I will put a table cover on the top on the on the grooming table, and then switch that out in between pets. I'm not concerned about disinfecting I'm using on the table because there's a cover on top of it. Cleaners and disinfectants you need to make sure that are safe to use around cats. Some of the cleaners are going to be most problematic and anything ending in Sol, Lysol, pinesol, alcohol. Use caution with these around cats by making sure the surface is cleaned and dry so they're not absorbing it through their pads. The good thing though about alcohol is that it will dry without a residue. If you're using alcohol to clean or sanitize, make sure that the surface is dry before the cats have access to it. I prefer using Tool Kleen UV sanitizers for my tools.

My equipment though for cats includes a Chris Christiansen cat comb, plus any comb that is coated. I don't use brushes often, for the ones that I do I make sure they are soft bristle, so you're not scratching their skin and their skin is thinner than that of a dog. If you're going to use a clipper vac for comb clips, you want to be really careful because the clipper back can actually suck in the skin and can get caught on a blade. Use caution. If using a clipper, seven or 10 blades. I don't reverse clip as it can damage the erector Pillai muscle of the hair shaft. They are cat blades and they're coated but those cat blades do dull very fast. You’ll need several of them. I use corded clippers for any for pelted coat, but a five in one the cordless for regular clipping. An eight blade rake, you want to use caution with those. And lots and lots and lots of towels. The scissor type of nail cutter because the one that's the guillotine will pull on the nail and an easy to clean plastic cat carrier, in case the owner does not have their own. But that'll be clean and sanitize in between.

Injuries. And this is injuries for you and injuries for the cat. Let's start off with injuries for you. If you were injured by the cat, you want to stop what you're doing, secure the cat and clean out that wound immediately. Right don't wait on this. Cat bites are puncture wounds, meaning they will close up very fast and they can trap bacteria in the wound. Put antibiotic cream and wrap it up. It's going to get red, but if the red around the wound is larger than quarter, that's a doctor's visit. If the wound around it is larger than the quarter, and there's a red line shooting out of it, that isn't an emergency room visit. Not wait to the end of your day. Stop what you're doing. Close up, head over to the emergency room. Because that can be life threatening.

If it's the cat, in the workbook, I do have checklists. And I also have a first aid kit list. I want to go over both of them. The first aid kit checklist. I want to point out a couple of things that are on here that are going to be different for cats. One of the items in the kit is going to be antibiotic cream. However, because I groom cats, I do not use triple antibiotic cream. And the reason for that is, is that even though it's a very rare allergy, if a cat is allergic to the combination of the three ingredients in the triple, it can be fatal allergy.

I don't use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol to clean out wounds on cats, because cats cannot metabolize either one of them. I use a commercial wound rinse. If you injured a cat, the first thing you got to do is you're going to take a deep breath. What happens in any given emergency situation is all of those endorphins are dumping into your body such as adrenaline, and that's responsible for the fight flight or freeze syndrome. Take that deep breath, go get the first aid kit, make sure the cat is secure, and assess the injury see what's going on. You will probably have to muzzle this cat because this cat has an injury and is in pain. You want to clean out the wound with a commercial grade wound rinse. Depending on where the injury is, you may want to elevate the injury above the hearts of that's on a leg or something. You can apply direct pressure with gauze. I like to use nonstick gauze as the first gauze so that you're not removing a scab. You can wrap the injury and then you're going to contact the owner or the vet. No matter how minor the injury is you need to let the owner know.

The other checklist is for dealing with pet injuries is: you want to attend to the care of the pets, contact the veterinarian if warranted. Add so you want to make sure you have the address and the phone number. Contact the owner and the most important part of this is debriefing. How did this accident happen? It is really important to take the time to debrief and understand why this happened. Not only the groomer that this happened to but any staff that you might have.