

# CLEANING TIPS

for Pet Owners

We love our pets! But always keeping our homes clean can be a big challenge.

Most pet owners agree: no matter what we do, it sometimes seems our living spaces can be invaded by pet hair and dander. Here are helpful tips to keep in mind when living with and loving pets.

## Keep a lint roller handy

These are a must! They pick up hair from everywhere and are great for spur-of-the-moment cleaning. Lint rollers are wise to use after vacuuming as they pick up hair and dust that have been stirred up, but not sucked up.

## Keep white vinegar close by

This is one of the best all-around ways to remove pet smells and stains from your carpet. Fill a spray bottle with white vinegar and spray stains evenly. Then, let the area dry. Vinegar is wonderful for soaking up any lingering smells, too.

## Stop it at the door

Dogs are notorious for tracking in dirt and mud. Instead of fretting and spending time cleaning floors, keep a towel and container of water near the door and train Fido to wait there while having paws wiped.

## Brush pets regularly

Pet hair is the biggest challenge for pet owners. Grooming and brushing your pet regularly will make him feel better - and decrease the amount of hair in your home. Cats especially need brushing to reduce hairballs and constipation. Most dogs and many cats love their brushing (and bonding) time with their humans.

## Clean collars and toys

It can be easy to forget about cleaning your pets' collars and toys, but this is a vital step. Collars, for instance, tend to get smelly pretty fast. You can put collars and toys in the dishwasher - this is a fast and easy way to clean most pet-related items.

## Baking soda works wonders

Baking soda is fantastic for neutralizing odors. Add a cup to the load when washing pet beds and they'll smell fresher!

## Clean litter boxes often

If you're smelling the litter box when you walk into the room, chances are you're not cleaning it often enough. Clean it twice a day - both you and kitty will be happier.

