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Grooming Your Dog At Home - The Ultimate Guide

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Your Dog, Grooming & You

Dear reader.

Thanks for downloading [*Grooming Your Dog at Home - The Ultimate Guide*](#).

Our canine friend has been an integral part of our lives for centuries and during this time has performed many important roles: a guard, a hunter, a companion, a protector, a friend and even a warrior.

As time passed, we have begun to accept this friend as a member of our family and also treating him like one too. Somewhere along the line we also started paying a lot of attention to our pet's grooming needs. However, we don't know much about the origin of grooming.

Research indicates that the Poodle was one of the first dog breeds to be groomed, which is not really surprising if you consider the nature of its coat and the endless possibilities to show creativity it affords. During the 19th Century, the art of grooming excelled as Louis XV and Louis XVI of France declared the little dog, the royal dog at court.

Even with the fall of the monarchy, the first grooming parlors flourished, as did the poodle's popularity. These first artfully groomed poodles gained the title of French Poodle even though the breed did not originate in that country.

All dogs need grooming, from the smoothest Doberman to the fluffiest Collie. Even the hairless breeds require regular skin maintenance to look and feel their best. Just as you feel fresh and comfortable when you are clean and healthy, so does your dog. Grooming your dog regularly will lower allergens, dander as well as pet odor. Needless to add, it is a good hygiene practice for your pet.

While all dog breeds require grooming, you must know that the grooming requirements vary substantially depending on the breed type, coat type and its length etc. Regular grooming can prevent many issues before they begin, like severe matting. Training your pet to enjoy the grooming sessions is crucial to achieving success with grooming your dog at home.

Apart from brushing and bathing, grooming also means clipping toenails, cleaning eyes, ears and teeth. Trimming and clipping the coat is also an important aspect of grooming, especially, with dogs that have corded, wired or long coats. There are special tools available to perform these grooming rituals and you should know which ones you need for your dog. Proper skin care is critical as most dog breeds are prone to allergies and infections.

Therefore, this book provides you with everything and anything you need to know as a dog owner while grooming your dog.

- ✓ Starting with the first chapter you'll have an overall idea about grooming.
- ✓ Moving on to the second, third, fourth & fifth chapter you'll learn about the grooming tools, their prices, their availability, the bathing the right kind of shampoos, and skin

caring tips and processes.

- ✓ Sixth chapter offers you with general dog caring processes that includes cleaning your dog's eyes, ears, teeth, paws, trimming the nails, etc.
- ✓ Seventh chapter is of immense importance as you become familiar with dog coats and detailed, step-by-step grooming directions for all types of coats.
- ✓ Chapter eight and nine provides you with information on dog breeding and special information on coat caring processes.
- ✓ In chapter ten you get to learn about your entire puppy caring needs and tips.
- ✓ Eleventh chapter unfolds everything about dog diets and their importance in grooming.
- ✓ Chapter twelve closely examines the clipping processes for your dog.
- ✓ In chapter thirteen you'll learnt about why do dogs shed, how to prevent it and other necessary information.
- ✓ In chapter fourteen you got a quick glimpse of the First-Aid-Kit for grooming.
- ✓ Chapter fifteen guides you on how to choose a low or high maintenance dog.
- ✓ In the last chapter you learned about all those vital issues related to and difficult situation.

Now that you know everything about grooming you can do it on your own and cut down on the cost. There is another advantage to it. If you bathe, brush or clip your dog yourself there are better chances of bonding.

No matter your dog is being bred for dog shows or as pet grooming forms an essential part. This friendly e book guides you to a routined grooming to keep your dog clean. In the process it paves the way for a strong bond.

This book is intended for all dog owners who would like to know and practice every aspect of grooming their pets at home. So go ahead and make your pet the epitome of what good grooming is all about!!

Amy West

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Chapter 1 – What is Dog Grooming About..... | 8 |
| Who Are Professional Groomers..... | 8 |
| Chapter 2 – Dog Grooming Tools | 10 |
| Dog Grooming Inventory | 10 |
| Chapter 3 – Giving Your Dog A Proper Bath..... | 13 |
| Dog Bath Inventory..... | 13 |
| How To Properly Bathe Your Dog | 13 |
| Drying Your Dog’s Coat..... | 15 |
| The fluff-dry method..... | 15 |
| The cage drying method | 15 |
| The towel-dry method | 16 |
| How Often To Bathe Your Dog..... | 16 |
| Chapter 4 – Choosing the Right Shampoo..... | 18 |
| Flea & Tick Shampoos | 19 |
| Medicated Shampoos..... | 19 |
| Tearless Shampoos..... | 19 |
| Conditioning Shampoo | 19 |
| Standard Shampoo..... | 20 |
| Other Dog Shampoos Available | 20 |
| Self-Rinsing Shampoo | 20 |
| Dry Shampoo | 20 |
| Coloring Shampoo..... | 20 |
| Hypoallergenic Shampoo..... | 20 |
| Special Shampoos for Puppies | 21 |
| Re-moisturizers – Toning the Dry skin | 21 |
| Chapter 5 – Complete Skin Care | 22 |
| Allergies | 22 |
| Brush Burn and Clipper Burn..... | 23 |
| Hot Spots..... | 23 |
| Product Reactions | 24 |
| Skin Diseases | 24 |
| Skin Infections | 24 |
| Dealing with Dog Dander | 24 |
| Chapter 6 – General Care..... | 26 |
| Dog Ear Care | 26 |
| Keeping Your Dog’s Eyes Clean and Healthy | 27 |
| Cleaning Your Dog's Face..... | 29 |
| Brushing Your Dog's Teeth | 29 |
| Dog Pedicure (Foot Care) | 30 |
| Dog Manicure (Trimming the Nails)..... | 31 |
| Combating Dog Odor..... | 32 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Chapter 7 – Get Acquainted With Your Dog’s Coat..... | 34 |
| Coat textures | 34 |
| Smooth coats | 34 |
| Curly coats | 34 |
| Corded coats | 35 |
| Wire coats | 35 |
| Coat Length..... | 35 |
| Hairless Dogs | 35 |
| Short Coats | 36 |
| Medium Coats | 36 |
| Long Coats | 36 |
| Coat Color | 37 |
| Coat Types: Single versus Double | 38 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Dog with Single Coat & Double Coat..... | 39 |
| Grooming Double-coated Breeds | 40 |
| Brushing Basics | 41 |
| Surviving Shedding | 41 |
| Bathing Your Dog : Step by step | 42 |
| Preparing for the show | 42 |
| Conditioning & Making Hair Stand-up | 42 |
| Grooming Corded Coats..... | 42 |
| Caring Before the Cords Form | 42 |
| Maintaining the Cords | 43 |
| Bathing Basics | 43 |
| Drying | 44 |
| Preparing for Show | 44 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Corded Coats..... | 44 |
| Grooming Clipped Breeds | 45 |
| Brushing These Dogs Depending on their Coat-types | 45 |
| Bathing | 46 |
| Clipping Your Dog’s Coat | 46 |
| Preparing for Show | 46 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Coats That Need to be Clipped | 47 |
| Grooming Stripping Breeds | 48 |
| Brushing Basics | 48 |
| Right Time To Strip | 48 |
| Bathing | 48 |
| Stripping Your Dog’s Coat | 49 |
| Preparing For The Show | 50 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Coats That Need to be Stripped | 50 |
| Chapter 8 – Dog Breed and Grooming | 51 |
| Grooming the Short-haired or Smooth-coated Dogs | 51 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Short/Smooth Coat | 52 |
| Grooming a Wavy or Curly-Coated Sporting Breed | 53 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Curly/Wavy Coat..... | 54 |
| Grooming the Medium Coat | 55 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Medium Coat | 56 |
| Grooming the Long Coat | 57 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Long Coat | 58 |
| Grooming the Wire-Coated Dog | 59 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Wiry Coat | 60 |
| Grooming the Labrador Retriever | 61 |
| Grooming the Poodle..... | 62 |
| Detailed Grooming Chart..... | 64 |
| Chapter 9 – Special Grooming for Special Coats | 65 |
| Special Grooming for the Wrinkle–skinned Dog | 65 |
| Extra-care for the Wrinkles | 66 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Wrinkled Skin..... | 67 |
| Special Grooming for the Bald/Hairless Dog | 68 |
| Extra-care for the Hairless Skin..... | 68 |
| Dog Breed Chart – Bald/Hairless Dogs | 69 |
| Special Grooming for the Long-haired Dog | 70 |
| Extra-care to Prevent Mats & Tangles | 70 |
| Chapter 10 – Grooming a Puppy | 71 |
| Why is Grooming a Puppy Essential? | 71 |
| The Right Time to Groom Your Puppy..... | 71 |
| Bathing Your Puppy | 71 |
| Drying Your Puppy | 72 |
| Brushing Your Puppy | 72 |
| Chapter 11 – Better Diet Leads To Better Dog Pelt | 76 |
| Importance of Good Nutrition | 76 |
| Appropriate Feeding for a Shiny & Glossy Coat..... | 76 |
| Nutritional Supplements | 77 |
| Chapter 12 – Dealing with the Challenges of Clipping..... | 78 |
| Tools Required..... | 78 |
| Attempting your first pet cut | 79 |
| Chapter 13 – Dog Shedding..... | 80 |
| What is shedding? | 80 |
| The Shedding Season | 80 |
| The Basic Difference Between Shedding & Coat loss..... | 81 |
| Difference Between Normal Shedding & Excessive Shedding..... | 81 |
| How Much Shedding is Too Much..... | 81 |
| What is Excessive Shedding? | 82 |
| About Non-Shedding Dogs..... | 82 |
| All About Brushing – Control/Reduce Shedding..... | 83 |
| Tips to Deal With Shedding | 85 |
| Dog Breed Chart on Shedding | 86 |
| Dogs That Are Light Shedder | 86 |
| Dogs That Are Medium/Average Shedder | 87 |
| Dogs That Are Heavy Shedder | 88 |
| Myths/Misconceptions About Grooming & Shedding | 89 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Chapter 14 – First Aid Tips While Grooming Your Dog | 90 |
| Make Your Dog’s First-Aid-Kit | 90 |
| Why Do You Need a Grooming First-Aid Kit? | 90 |
| Chapter 15 – Choosing a High or Low Maintenance Dog | 93 |
| High Maintenance Dogs | 93 |
| Low Maintenance Dogs | 94 |
| Chapter 16 – Home-made Natural Grooming Products | 95 |
| Conveniently Made At Home Products for Best Results | 95 |
| Homemade Recipes for Dog Coat Conditioners | 95 |
| Homemade Recipe for Dog Shampoo..... | 96 |
| Homemade Recipe for Dog Toothpaste..... | 96 |
| Homemade Solution for Cleaning Ears | 96 |
| Chapter 17 – Twelve Vital Dog Grooming Issues Answered | 98 |
| Issue #1 – Dealing with Stickers, Burrs & Grass Awns | 98 |
| Methods to eliminate stinky and sticky stuff | 98 |
| Issue #2 – Grooming Difficult, Uncooperative & Wiggly Dogs..... | 100 |
| Dealing with fearful dogs..... | 100 |
| Handling a dog in pain | 100 |
| Tackling an aggressive dog..... | 100 |
| Muzzling versus Medication | 101 |
| Issue #3 – Training Your Pet For A Grooming Session..... | 102 |
| Issue #4 – Preventing Your Dog from Biting You While Grooming . | 104 |
| Issue #5 – Grooming Enhances Better Bonding with Your Dog | 105 |
| Issue #6 – Successfully Dealing with Matts & Tangles | 106 |
| Issue #7 – Costs & Investments Involved in Good Grooming | 108 |
| Issue #8 – Importance of Maintaining a Grooming Diary | 109 |
| Issue #9 – Situations That Require Professional Grooming Help ... | 110 |
| Issue #10 – Dealing with Ticks, Mites Lice and Fleas | 111 |
| Ticks..... | 111 |
| Demedectic Mange | 112 |
| Issue #11 – 10 Convenient Grooming Tips for Time-crunched Dog Owners | 113 |
| Issue #12 – 10 Tips to Make Your Dog Enjoy Grooming | 115 |

Chapter 1 – What is Dog Grooming About



The practice of caring for the appearance of your canine friend for personal or showing purposes is called Grooming. Most people have the misconception that grooming is only about brushing your dog's coat.

Actually, in addition to brushing, grooming also includes washing, hair clipping and cutting, nail clipping, powdering, hair styling and teeth cleaning.

Grooming is an important part of your dog's health, with regular brushing and combing helping to remove dead hair and dirt and prevent matting.

Dogs who are regularly groomed tend to have a healthier and shinier coat because it stimulates the blood supply to the skin.

Grooming your dog can also be a good way to bond with your dog, and it's important to get him used to it from an early age. Many dogs learn to see their routine brushing as an alternate petting, another source of affection and attention.

Who Are Professional Groomers

Finding a professional groomer is not difficult but finding the right one is. How does one go about looking for the right one?

- First of all... ask around. Every time a dog leaves the groomer, it is a walking advertisement. Talk to your veterinarian, your kennel manager, and your neighbor. If you see a dog on the street with a style you like, stop the owner and ask where the dog was groomed.
- Ask your vet: your vet may know the one suitable for your dog breed
- Check the Yellow Pages: you can find a list there to choose from
- Call the groomer you are interested in using. Ask him/her questions. "Did you go to grooming school or apprentice with a professional groomer?" "How long have you been grooming?" "Do you have much experience with {insert your breed here}?"

"Are you a member of any professional grooming organization?" There is a national organization called National Dog Groomers of America Association and many states have their own groomers' organizations.

- Check for certifications: yes, there are some very good groomers who are not certified and vice versa. But if you have to start looking for a new one and you don't have any recommendations, then this could be a criterion to start with. With

certification, you at least know the standard to which the groomer should be able to perform.

- Use of tranquilizers: some groomers use tranquilizers, especially with uncooperative and hostile dogs. Using tranquilizers can make dogs vulnerable to hypothermia, heatstroke or seizures.
- Cleanliness: When choosing a groomer, cleanliness of the place should be considered above everything else.
- Grooming for the shows: Most pet groomers can handle grooming any breed of dog with sufficient results, however, if you are having your dog groomed for showing, you may want to choose a professional groomer who specializes in your breed of dog and who is familiar with show quality grooming.

Bichon Frises, Poodles, and Spaniels are just a few breeds that may require a pet groomer with specific experience.

Chapter 2 – Dog Grooming Tools

The reason one should groom his/her dog is simple...your dog's physical state influences the way he feels and the way you look at your dog.

Extreme cases, where lack of proper care, cleaning and grooming can directly affect the behavior of a dog, are not rare.

Proper grooming, not only infuses a healthy glow to your dog's appearance, but also helps develop his self-esteem; while it makes you a very proud parent, when you show off your dog to others.

Dog Grooming Inventory

A supply of good tools and equipment is required to properly groom your dog.



All dogs should have the basic supplies such as,

- Brush
- Comb
- Scissors
- Nail clippers

However, long coats require different grooming tools than smooth coats, wire coats, and curly coats.

The following is an alphabetical list of possible tools you will need for grooming:

Brush, Boar's Bristle - This brush works great for removing the undercoat of long-coated breeds and also helps in getting rid of mats in the undercoat.

Brush, Bristle (soft, medium, and stiff) - These brushes are used on different short-coated breeds, for regular brushing and to remove the undercoat of certain long-coated breeds.

Brush, Large Pin - This brush is commonly used for regular brushing of long-coated large dogs.

Brush, Small Pin - This type of brush is used for brushing long-coated small dogs.

Brush, Rubber - This brush is designed for use on short-coated breeds.

Brush, Slicker – This brush is used for nearly every breed of dog to release dirt and to pull loose hair from the dog's coat.

Chamois cloth - This cloth is used for polishing the coats of shorthaired dogs.

Comb - The best comb is a regulation-size steel comb with both medium and fine teeth. This comb will do a good job on most breeds.

De-Matting Comb - Heavy comb with wide teeth preferred. A matting comb will help in getting rid of mats from the coats of long-haired breeds.

Duplex dresser - A stripping tool used on most Terriers and other breeds. (This is a very dangerous tool which incorporates razor blades and should only be used after having some instruction and supervision.)

Dryer, Cage - This type of dryer is designed to fit on cages so that the dog may be dried inside the cage. (This is only used at home if you desire to cage dry your dog.)

Dryer, Floor - This is a type of dryer that is generally used for fluff drying. Because of the long arm on this dryer it can be used to direct the air on the coat and dry the hair. (This may not be handy for home grooming of a few pets.)

Dryer, Hand-Held – This basic hairdryer is available in most households and is sufficient for drying any size dog that is bathed occasionally.

Dryer, High-speed Floor - This dryer is the same as the other floor dryers except that it has a high-speed motor attached for fluff drying long-coated breeds such as the Standard Poodle, Old English Sheepdog, and Afghan.

Electric Clipper Blades - These blades are designed for both the A5 and the A2 model clippers. Each blade is numbered. The higher the number, the more hair it removes.

Electric Clipper for Small Animals (such as Oster A5 Model or A2 Model) – The Oster A5 Clipper is a one-piece clipper with snap-on blades. This clipper is highly recommended because it is the easiest to use and operate. The Oster A2 Model is a very good clipper to use, though it requires interchangeable heads which makes it a little harder to use due to the added inconvenience.

Electric Clipper Snap-on Comb - This is a favorite among "fast job groomers." If slipped over the blades of electric clippers, it will thus uniformly leave a specific length of hair (for example, 5/8 inches of hair) wherever used. This type of comb is available in six different sizes.

Electric Clipper Spray Lube - This spray product is used to cool and lubricate the blades. Use of the spray lube is necessary when clipping in order to prevent clipper burns.

Grooming Post and Loop - The ideal grooming post should be one that is portable and can easily be attached to any size table. The loop is placed around the dog's neck to ensure his safety. If you aren't using a grooming table, attach a hook above the surface where you will be grooming and use a nylon leash and collar to secure your dog.)

Grooming Table (18' x 34") - This standard size grooming table is usually a folding type and easy to carry and move to a different location. It is 30" high and has ribbed rubber matting. This table is mostly used for grooming small dogs.

Grooming Table (24" x 36") - This is an average size grooming table, usually a folding type, and also easy to transport. This table is 30" high and has ribbed rubber matting on the top. This table can be used for grooming various breed sizes.

Hound Glove or Mitt - The hound glove is used on the coats of various shorthaired dogs including the hound family.

Hydraulic Grooming Table (23" X 36") with tailgate in position (23" x 47") - This table works great for grooming dogs of all sizes and weights. It can be lowered to 29" from the floor and raised to 35 ½" at its highest point. This type of grooming table has an 11" tailgate that can be folded away when not in use and ribbed rubber mat on the top.

It is especially useful when grooming very large or very heavy breeds. This is not a normal home piece of equipment; in fact, most professional groomers do not have hydraulic tables.

Nail Clipper - The following are three types of nail clippers that are suitable for small, medium, and large breeds. The scissors-type is recommended for small dogs. The guillotine-type is used on medium-sized dogs. And finally, the heavy duty, pliers-type, is best used for large breeds with strong, hard nails.

Scissors - These types of scissors come in both large and small sizes, and some are designed for left-handed people.

Shears, Curved - This tool is used by some groomers to help achieve a rounded effect on top-knots and "pom-poms." The home groomer will find curved shears useful for trimming the fur on the dog's feet.

Shears, Thinning – These are useful around eyes and ears to give a natural appearance but keep fur from irritating the eyes and ears.

Shedding Blade - The shedding blade is used on dogs with excessive shedding.

Silk Handkerchief - This is mainly used for polishing the coats of white short-haired breeds.

Stripping Knives - The fine stripping knife is used on the head, ears, and other sensitive areas. The coarse stripping knife is used on the other parts of the body.

Styptic Powder – This is necessary to stop the bleeding of nails that are cut too short.

Chapter 3 – Giving Your Dog A Proper Bath



Giving a dog a bath can be as simple as rinsing him down in a child's swimming pool in the backyard during the summer.

Or as complex as a full-blown spa ritual, complete with a bathing harness and a bevy of fancy coat products designed to whiten, darken, brighten, de-tangle, shine, and leave your dog with a designer aroma to rival a fancy French perfume.

However, there are many ways to make bathing easier, and many ways in which bathing makes subsequent grooming sessions easier, too.

Dog Bath Inventory

Once your dog is completely brushed, combed, and tangle-free, he is ready for a bath. Now you must get ready, too, and that means gathering and preparing all the necessary equipment and supplies so that you can reach what you need when you need it.

If you put that dog in the bathtub under running water and then have to go in search of shampoo or a scrub brush, we all know what will happen: a jump, a shake, and you will be left with a soaked bathroom and a wet dog bounding around the house.

To wash your dog, you will need 9 basic supplies:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Sponge
- Scrub brush
- Bath mat
- Hand-held sprayer (or large cup for rinsing)
- Plastic apron for you to avoid getting wet
- Nylon collar and leash (if your dog has a tendency to bolt away)
- Heavy towel (at least 2)

How To Properly Bathe Your Dog

The rules on how often you should bathe your dog are different from one dog to the next. Various breeds as well as various types of coats determine how often the dog should be given a bath.

For example, the Poodle should be bathed every four or six weeks.



On the other hand, the Pointer can go three or four months between baths. Other breeds which have harsh long coats, such as the Pomeranian, Samoyed, and the Norwegian Elkhound require less frequent bathing because it tends to soften the coat.

However, dogs that are kept in the house most of the time have to be bathed more frequently to keep them clean.

Bathing the dog is important in order to keep the coat and skin clean and healthy. The coat should always be brushed thoroughly before the bath. This will help to remove all dead hair and all mats from the coats of longhaired dogs.

How to do it:

- Always remember to secure your dog safely in the tub (as shown in the picture).

- A nylon collar and leash tied to the bathtub faucets so that the dog has not more than a foot and a half of slack will work well.

This will make sure that the dog cannot jump from the tub and injure himself. A large, rubber tub mat is also a good safety precaution.



- Using a spray hose, wet the entire coat, except the head and ears, thoroughly with warm water.

Next, apply the shampoo to the dog's coat with a sponge. A small rubber-bristled brush may be used for lathering the dog. Pay special attention to the pads of the feet and the rectum area.

- When the coat is thoroughly soaped and scrubbed, rinse it with warm water.
- Since every dog should have a double bath, repeat the soaping and rinsing process. On the last rinse be sure to get all of the soap out of the coat.
- After washing the rest of the dog, wet the dog's head and shampoo the head and ears and any part of the neck or chest that was not previously done. Pay special attention to the ears.

When rinsing, place the thumb or a cotton ball over the ear opening to keep water out of the ears. Also keep a hand over the eyes to prevent any soap from getting into them.

- Turn the water off. Keeping the dog in his "bathing harness", squeeze excess water out of his coat by pressing the fur to his body with your hand. Then gently squeeze the hair on the legs, tail, and ears with your hands to remove excess water.
- Cover your dog with a large, absorbent towel. Detach the collar to release the dog and lift him from the tub. Keep his head covered to keep him from shaking and spraying water over you and the room.

- Rub him briskly all over with the towel. The better you dry him with the towel, the faster he will dry once you use the hair dryer. A second towel may be necessary. Large dogs with long coats will need three towels. You must first towel dry before using a dryer.

Drying Your Dog's Coat



There are three methods that can be applied to properly dry the coat, depending on the breed of dog you are working with.

These are:

- The fluff-dry method
- The cage drying method
- The towel-dry method

The fluff-dry method

The first method and perhaps the most difficult to achieve is the fluff-dry method. A high-speed floor dryer is used for this procedure when performed by a professional groomer.

If grooming your own dog, you will probably use a hand held hairdryer. This method of drying is a very important and crucial step in the proper grooming of certain breeds such as the Poodle, Afghan, Old English Sheepdog, and Maltese.

In fluff drying, the hair is not only dried but should be straightened as well. The warm air from the dryer is directed at that portion of the coat, which you are drying. The hair is brushed in an upward motion with quick, even strokes until the hair in that particular spot is dry. This procedure is carried out over the entire coat until it is completely dry.

The results of a fluff dry can sometimes determine the overall appearance of the completed grooming job. Therefore, it is important to learn to give a proper fluff dry.

Special attention should be given to the areas of the head, ears (long-haired ears), tail, and legs. Dogs with pom-poms like poodles will not have a pom-pom if it is not properly fluff dried.

The cage drying method

The second method of drying is known as cage or kennel drying and is usually used on short-coated dogs or on dogs whose coat does not require a fluffed or straight appearance.

When using this method of drying, a cage dryer is attached to the cage and the dog is put into the cage on a towel until he is dry. It is important to make sure that the cage is properly ventilated on the top as well as on the sides.

Otherwise, the dog may suffocate. If the dog is too large for the cage, he may be placed on a grooming table and dried with a floor dryer.

The towel-dry method

Another method of drying that is commonly used in drying small breeds is the towel drying method. Towel drying is usually used with all short-haired breeds such as the Chihuahua, Miniature Pinscher, Toy Manchester Terrier, some of the hounds, and many of the terriers.

The coat is rubbed briskly with the towel until it is dry. Towel drying can be used in combination with a handheld hairdryer. When a towel is thoroughly damp, get a dry towel and continue rubbing briskly.

Cage drying and use of the floor dryer are effective for short-haired breeds, but unnecessary. Do not take the dog outdoors until you are sure that the coat and skin are thoroughly dried.



How Often To Bathe Your Dog

Whether you should follow the routine and bathe your dog or you bathe him as often as you want are totally two different aspects. You might feel like bathing him every time he smells bad or gets dirt or filth in his coat.

But you should also know the usual time gaps to bathe your dog so that he doesn't fall sick.

Dogs' coats comprise of essential oils, which provide them with warmth and buoyancy. Again few dogs contain very thick oils.

Therefore when you bathe them you have to wet them twice once before applying the soap and again after applying soap so that a good lather is formed. Now you can rinse thoroughly in spite of they having really oily skin.

However, some dogs generate these oils more frequently than the others. Many dogs are fine with a good scrub once every month. An oatmeal based shampoo and conditioners are good for scrubbing dry skin dogs.

The conditioner actually cleans the skin of dirt and itchy substances without drying the skin. There are even breeds whose skin are so dry that they demand specialized conditioner.



Usually bathing your dog once a month is good enough but at times twice a month is necessary. You cannot deny the fact that dogs like their doggie odor to the more attractive fragrance applied on them by humans.

This demands bathing them more than just once a month. Breeds, which have heavy coats, can be bathed twice every two weeks. But bathe on a short-term basis or else the skin and the coat will dry off.

Medicated shampoos for skin-disorders can also be used with your vet's advice.

Your dog may have a healthy coat but the soaps and shampoo however mild and superior in quality are harsh and chemical borne. Their skins are not intended to handle such harsh elements unlike the dog's natural inclinations. But in case there arise a situation where you have to bathe him always use oil based conditioner to prevent his skin and hair from drying off.

A couple of quick tips to get rid of the doggie odor:

- Wash his bedding on a weekly basis. This is short termed but helps for a day.
- Use dry shampoos for a quick wash in between the regular baths. These soak up the odors that will otherwise linger everywhere.

These you can try but nothing works best as bathing your dog.

Chapter 4 – Choosing the Right Shampoo

There are many different types of pet shampoos and conditioners available today. And it can be quite a daunting task trying to choose the one that will be just right for your pet.

Always use only those pet products that are specially formulated to maintain the ph balance of your dog's skin.

Never use the one intended for people (even babies) as the skin ph levels of humans is much more acidic than dogs and hence can irritate dog's skin.

Before deciding on the type of shampoo to buy, look carefully at your dog. Feel his coat.



1. Is it shiny?
2. Is it dull?
3. When you scratch him thoroughly do you get his skin cells under your fingernails?
4. How often does he scratch himself?
5. Is he prone to allergies?

Determining what is going on with your pooch is the first step in providing him the best shampoo for his needs. Since all dogs are unique, there isn't one single best shampoo option out there.

Dog shampoos that are made from more natural ingredients are best. While many 100% organic products may fail in getting your dog completely clean, natural care lines are usually crafted with an eye toward being as gentle as possible to your dog's fur and skin.

Caution: Never allow dogs to lick any shampoo or conditioner or other bathing product from their face or whiskers. Avoid splashing or dripping shampoo and conditioners in their eyes.

- With so many shampoos on the market, it's not easy to decide which to use. Yet, for most breeds, a basic, all-purpose shampoo is fine. If you want your shampoo to do more than clean, you might also consider a specialty shampoo.
- Accentuate your dog's coat color by choosing a shampoo made for white, black or red coats.
- Shampoos designed to deliver extra conditioning to long or curly coats can make post-bath grooming even easier.
- For wire-coated dogs, look for a shampoo designed to preserve the crisp texture of your dog's coat.

- Many dogs have sensitive skin or eyes. A hypoallergenic shampoo can minimize sensitivity reactions to bathing.
- If your dog already has a rash, allergies, itching, or other sensitive skin conditions, look for a medicated shampoo designed to treat your dog's problem (your vet should be able to recommend a good medicated shampoo for your dog).
- Is it flea season? Then consider a shampoo containing a gentle anti-flea ingredient such as pyrethrin or limonene, or any of several natural botanicals designed to repel fleas, such as Neem oil.
- If your dog has sensitive eyes then consider a “tear-less” shampoo.

While the decision of choosing the right shampoo is entirely yours, what is important is that it works for your dog. You should match the shampoo to your dog's coat and skin conditions. Here are the choices:

Flea & Tick Shampoos

Most of today's flea and tick shampoos are oil-based. Pyrethrins and d-Limonene are natural ingredients made from plants. They are commonly found in most natural flea and tick shampoos.

They are safe and non-toxic and best of all, effective. You may want to try several product lines until you find one that not only rids the dog of parasites but also leaves the coat in great condition for styling. Carefully read and follow as label instructions, and store the product in a safe place.



Medicated Shampoos

These shampoos are specially formulated to treat irritations as well as cleanse your dog's coat and help relieve itching and scaling due to dry skin or dermatitis.

Make sure the coat is completely rinsed free of any shampoo residue. Medicated shampoos are available at most pet supply stores or by prescription from a vet.

Tearless Shampoos

Tearless shampoos are ideal for washing a dog's head and face, but they can be used on the entirety of the pet. Some pet-owners even prefer a tearless protein-based shampoo as their regular shampoo for most dogs with normal coat and skin conditions

Conditioning Shampoo

Used on dogs to condition the hair and skin as well as clean the coat. Creme Rinses-Creme rinses cannot be used on all pets. Dogs such as the Old English Sheepdog, Bichon Frise, and double-coated breeds can benefit from a rinse.

However, do not use creme rinses on cats, on silky-haired pets such as Yorkies, or on harsh-coated breeds like terriers, Poodles, Pomeranians, and the Pekingese.



Standard Shampoo

When your dog is simply smelly or dirty, this is the shampoo to use. It's usually scented, so your dog will smell nice afterward. These shampoos may be formulated for normal, dry and oily skin.

Other Dog Shampoos Available

This category differs from the one mentioned above as it is mainly used by the dog-owners who want to enter their dogs in dog shows when bath isn't always possible.

Self-Rinsing Shampoo

These shampoos require no water. Just spray some liquid on the area to be cleaned, work up lather, squeeze clean with an absorbent towel and finally blow dry. Very convenient for dog shows where no bathtubs are available.

Dry Shampoo

This is actually a powder that blends talc, cornstarch, boric acid and baking soda. The powder is applied and worked properly in the coat and reaches the skin to absorb the excess oils. This shampoo can also be used between baths or even as a regular bath alternative.

Coloring Shampoo

This shampoo is primarily used to enhance specific coat colors. Whitening shampoo is the most popular among these as it removes food and urine stains from the coat, making it look impeccably clean and shining.

Others available are black, brown, gold are formulated to restore the natural luster and shine of your pet's coat without using dyes or harmful chemicals.

Hypoallergenic Shampoo

Many dogs have sensitive and super-sensitive skin. If your pet dog is one of them, he might easily react to detergents, shampoos, perfumes and even disinfectants. Typical symptoms are itching and scratching all the time.

You might even notice hives or red blotches appearing all over your dog's body. Whatever the symptoms are, this means your dog needs your immediate attention.

Using a particular brand of pet shampoo or a deodorizer may trigger off allergic reactions. Like humans, it varies from dog to dog, as to which brand of pet cosmetic product will suit your particular dog. Usually, the dye or perfume containing in the shampoo sets off such reactions.



In such cases, it would be best if you choose a Hypoallergenic Pet shampoo (that contains hypoallergenic formula). These hypoallergenic shampoos are specially manufactured for pets suffering from or that are prone to allergies. These shampoos are basically much more mild, gentle and tearless.

Vets and professional groomers prescribe such scientifically formulated shampoos for pet dogs with sensitive skin. Some shampoos even contain anti-itch components that reduce irritation and provide relief to the suffering pet.

Special Shampoos for Puppies

Common sense would tell us that puppies have sensitive skin. We simply cannot use any ordinary product that we usually use for adult dogs. In most cases, mild shampoos that are low in soap content are used.

You might also use shampoos containing Aloe Vera and Vitamin E that moisturizes your dog's little body and keeps its skin from drying. These mild shampoos come with a fresh scent and will keep your little pup free from bacteria and dandruff.



Re-moisturizers – Toning the Dry skin

Suggested for pets with dry skin, moisturizing treatments are designed to seal in the moisture from the pet's own skin. These can be used on a regular basis for pets that are prone to dry skin or dandruff. In most cases, the solution is massaged into the skin and left on the coat.

Chapter 5 – Complete Skin Care



Your dog's skin is one of his most sensitive and easily damaged organs.

If he develops a skin problem such as an allergy or a negative reaction to grooming products, his skin can initiate a cycle of other conditions that can be difficult to cure.

Some breeds in particular have very sensitive skin that requires special care and handling.

For example, if your dog has a white or light-colored coat and pink skin, he may be more sensitive to just about everything, from dry air and sun, to irritation from grooming products. In addition, dogs with short coats are more likely to have reactions to certain products.

When grooming any type of breed, you have to be very careful not to injure the skin. Slicker brushes, clippers, and scissors can all cause serious injury to a dog's skin.

De-matting tools and duplex dressers are very dangerous as they can cut deeply very quickly, causing extensive damage. For dogs with sensitive skin, use tools lightly and take special care when grooming a dog with skin problems.

Skin conditions are for a vet to deal with, and not for the groomer or pet owner to try to solve.

Skin problems that can be caused by or aggravated by grooming include the following:

Allergies

Many dogs develop allergies from food, external environmental sources, or inhaled substances. In dogs, allergies are most likely to show on the skin or how the dog reacts to the skin. The most common type of allergy in dogs is the flea allergy dermatitis, which is an allergic reaction to flea saliva.

Allergies can develop as:

- Rashes
- Hives
- Severe itching
- Baldness

Never brush over rashes or hives. If the hair is tangled, work through it gently with a comb.

Allergies can trigger a nasty cycle as they cause itching, which causes scratching and/or licking, which causes more irritation, which causes more scratching and/or licking. Even

after the trigger (such as fleas) is eliminated, the negative effects on a dog's skin can last for a long time.

Always consult your vet for any signs or symptoms of allergic reaction. Your vet can advise you about how to properly groom hair over these areas.

Brush Burn and Clipper Burn

These skin conditions are a direct result of grooming. Brush burn is caused by brushing too hard, damaging the skin. Clipper burn is a result of allowing a clipper to become too hot, which occurs with extended use, burning the dog.

Not only can such grooming mishaps be prevented, but when they occur, they can also make future grooming sessions extremely difficult for both the groomer and the dog.

Always Brush Gently

This is especially true with a wire slicker brush, which can be sharp. Short, gentle strokes are better than long, hard ones to work out tangles.

When brushing vigorously down to the skin, use a natural bristle brush and save the slicker brush for working out mats. Also use caution with pin brushes.

Turn Off Clippers Frequently

Have spare blades handy when the blades you are using get too hot, and use a cooling spray for your clipper frequently while it is in use.

Touch the clipper blade frequently to make sure it isn't too hot. Never run clippers over sensitive areas, like the chin and neck more than twice, especially when using a #10 or #15 blade.

Hot Spots

Hot spots are moist, hot wound-like areas (moist dermatitis) that develop rapidly and can be very painful. This type of skin problem may be caused by a variety of triggers such as fleas, allergies, irritants, infections, or lack of proper grooming.

Hot spots build up and grow because the dog compulsively licks and scratches at the itchy, painful spots, making it increasingly worse until it becomes infected. Vets have to treat hot spots by clipping hair away to disinfect and treat the area.

One of the best products for treating hot spots is called Sulfodene® (2-Mercaptobenzothiazole) which is applied directly to the hot spot twice or three times a day for 7-10 days. It promotes healing, relieves the itching and burning, and discourages the dog's licking and scratching.

The dog will probably be treated for itching. The vet may prescribe an antihistamine such as Benadryl® (25 mg twice a day). The dog may have to wear an "Elizabethan collar" in order to prevent the dog's scratching or licking the hot spots while they heal.

Product Reactions

Some breeds are sensitive to certain products like shampoos, conditioners, coat sprays, or flea or tick control. If your dog has an inexplicable skin reaction, it could be due to a recent change in grooming products or food.

If your dog has sensitive skin, you may want to try mild, hypoallergenic, and/or natural products containing skin-soothing ingredients. If you are not sure of which product to get, ask a vet or professional groomer for recommendations.

Skin Diseases

Dogs can develop many different skin diseases, some inherited, some caused by environmental factors. Your vet should always address skin diseases in your dog and can advise you how to properly groom them.



Whether relatively minor but inconvenient such as greasy, scaly skin resulting from overactive sebaceous glands (called oily seborrhea), something cosmetic like a disease that causes hair loss (like color mutant alopecia), or something potentially life-threatening like skin cancer, skin disease in dogs must be treated immediately.

Skin Infections

Bacteria introduced into a wound, either by unsanitary conditions, or by poor grooming, can cause skin infections.

From impetigo, which is common in puppies, skin-fold pyoderma that is common in loose-skinned breeds like Chinese Sharpei, to abscesses of uncertain origin, skin infections should be treated with antibiotics, which your vet can prescribe. Never groom over an infected area. Hair should be cut or carefully clipped from the area in order for the infection to heal.

Dealing with Dog Dander

All warm-blooded animals shed dead skin cells in the form of tiny flakes from their skin, fur, or feathers called dander (it's like dandruff in humans, but it's much harder to see).

When someone is allergic to animals they have a supersensitive immune system, which reacts to the harmless proteins (allergens) in pet dander. This can trigger asthma symptoms such as wheezing or coughing, or another allergic reactions like a skin rash, itchy or watery eyes, a stuffy nose, etc.

Contrary to popular belief, dog dander and not dog hair is what makes people allergic to dogs. Since dogs tend to scratch themselves more than other pet animals, dog allergens are more easily introduced into the air

Some times, you may mistakenly consider an allergy to be caused by the dog. It is therefore important that you verify that the source of allergy. To do this, the simplest way is to keep the dog two to three months away from home.



During this time, clean your home properly. Wash all the walls, floors, and steam clean the carpets. Clean all the furniture, and door and window covers. Allow air to pass through the house, so that the allergens that might be suspended in the air get removed. Cleaning the house of allergens might take more than three months.

During this time, check the allergy symptoms. After 3 to 4 months, bring the dog in the house, and compare the symptoms. This will give you an idea whether the allergy is due to pet or something else.

Some dog breeds supposedly produce less dander than others, and therefore people who are mildly allergic to dogs are able to tolerate these 'low dander' breeds quite well. These 'low dander' breeds are also referred to as hypoallergenic; low allergy or allergy friendly.

Inarguably, controlling the amount of dander in the house is an important part of dealing with this allergy.

Here are some ways you can do it:

- **Keep the dog out of your bedroom:** It is essential to have at least one room in the house where you can breathe cleaner, less-dander laden air! Also, if possible try to keep your dog outdoors during the day
- **Dust and vacuum often:** If you can, do this when the person who has an allergy or asthma is not at home.
- **Use HEPA air cleaners:** A HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filter is a type of high-efficiency air filter. HEPA filters can remove at least 99.97% of airborne particles 0.3 micrometers in diameter. Particles of this size are the most difficult to filter and are thus considered the most penetrating particle size (MPPS).
- **Bathe your dog frequently:** Use a mild dog shampoo as prevents over-drying of the skin. Moreover, bathing can greatly reduce the level of allergens on the fur.
- **Keep your dog's skin healthy:** Dermatitis often leads to enhanced skin cell shedding
- **Wash dog bedding, clothes and soft toys frequently:** Try washing these with an anti-allergen detergent
- **Switch to leather furniture instead of fabric:** Leather furniture is ideal for those suffering from dander allergy

Chapter 6 – General Care

Like humans, a dog's face, ears, eyes, teeth and paws need to be cleansed regularly. That is because these body parts contribute greatly to your dog's state of health. A dog with wax-filled ears, teary eyes or decayed teeth will not reflect good care and grooming, not to mention good health.

Dog Ear Care



Whether your dog's ears are long and droopy, or short and catlike, they require attention to make sure that they stay clean and free of problems.

Ears produce wax, trap dirt, grow hair, retain moisture, and can easily develop infections when they are neglected.

Check your dog's ears every day. If your dog is used to your handling his ears then he will be more comfortable with it when a professional groomer or vet has to examine them.

In addition, spend more time making sure the ears are clean during grooming sessions.

Below are eight suggestions that you can apply to make sure that your dog's ears are in good condition:

- First, examine your dog's ears. Check the outsides for tangles and parasites, which often gravitate toward the ears. Check the insides for dirt and excessive wax buildup. Your dog's ears should be clean.

A little earwax is normal, but large amounts of ear wax that looks reddish brown or streaky or smells funny should be cause for a consultation with the vet.

- Next, check for hair inside the ear. The ear's tiny hairs can trap dirt, bacteria, and moisture inside the ear canal, causing infection. If you like, you may trim the hair inside the ears for a neater appearance. In many dogs, the ear hair should be plucked.

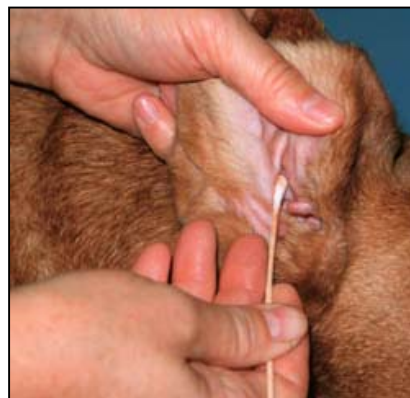
- For dog's ears that contain long ear hair, pluck out each hair with forceps or tweezers. If you find this difficult, dust the ear with a little medicated ear powder or boric acid powder using a cotton ball to make it easier to grasp the hairs.



- Don't pluck out more than two hairs at one time because this could be painful for your dog.

- If the hair is short and hard to pluck, or if you prefer to cut rather than pluck, you can clip each hair with a small, blunt-tipped scissors. To trim ear hair, pull the ear back over the dog's head, laying it flat against the skull. This will shut off the delicate parts of the ear canal.

- Dust the ears with medicated ear powder if they are prone to infection. Most powders sold in pet stores will do just fine and will not cause any adverse reactions. Boric acid powder (sometimes a special order in drugstores) works well also.



- If the ears are very dirty, gently pull the ear out away from the skull to open up the ear canal and place a few drops of ear wash or mineral oil inside. Massage the base of the ear to work the cleanser down the canal.

Hold the ear down for a minute to let the fluid enter the ear canal, then release your dog and let him shake his head a few times to loosen the ear wax. Check ears again and clear out loosened wax with a cotton ball or cotton swab dipped in ear wash or mineral oil.



Never use rubbing alcohol for cleaning a dog's ears as it is too drying and will cause problems. Remember that some breeds such as retrievers are more prone to ear wax than others so need their ears cleaned frequently.

- For dogs with droopy ears, remember to keep all hair under the ear opening and on the inside flap of the ear trimmed short. This will increase airflow to the ear and reduce the chance of infections.



Keeping Your Dog's Eyes Clean and Healthy

Cleaning your dog's eyes more or less depends on his type of breed. Dogs with protruding eyes and wrinkles on their face such as the Pekingese, Pug, and Boston Terrier, need to have their eyes cleaned on a regular basis. On the other hand, other types of breeds do not require as much attention.

Different eye types need different kinds of care:

- Flat-faced, short-nosed dogs with protruding eyes require the most care because their eyes are less protected than breeds with eyes that are set deeper and protected by a long muzzle. Protruding eyes have the tendency to dry out easily and are also easily injured.
- Dogs with white fur may develop tearstains from the eyes.
- Dogs with entropies, a condition in which the lid turns inward and eyelashes irritate the cornea, need special attention. In extreme cases, surgery is required to correct the problem.
- Dogs with excessive tearing need the eye area to be kept clean and dry.
- Dogs with dry eyes need moisturizing eye drops applied every day.
- Dogs with deep-set eyes need the eyes cleaned at least once a day as their paws and their rubbing will not remove excess tears and gunk from the inside corner.



The following five tips will help you clean your dog's eyes better:

- It is ideal to check your dog's eyes every day, not just every week. Most dogs occasionally accumulate debris in the corners of their eyes, and they will benefit from wiping the face down with a moist cloth and cleaning the corners of the eyes with a moist cotton ball every day.

- Be careful in wiping the cotton ball over the eye or you could scratch the cornea. A make-up remover pad may work better.

Many dogs with protruding eyes require a daily dose of moisturizing eye drops to keep their eyes moist and comfortable. Some brands of human eye drops work, though it is better to check with your vet about which brand to use.



- Regular checking, cleaning, and moisturizing your dog's eyes every day helps him get used to the practice. During monthly grooming sessions, rinse your dog's eyes with canine eyewash or eye drops. Apply a drop in each eye and carefully wipe away the excess from the corners with a soft cloth or dry cotton ball.
- If your light-coated dog has tearstains - brownish streaks under the eyes - be very careful when wiping the eyes clean. Apply a tearstain remover to the stained fur and not to the eyes according to the directions for the individual product.

However, if your dog seems to be tearing excessively and is constantly wet under

the eyes, or if you notice unusual redness or swollen areas in or around the eye, you need to consult your vet.

- Dogs can develop many different minor eye disorders that are easily treated if detected early. Also check that the eyes are clear. Cloudiness could mean your dog is developing cataracts.

Finally, a yearly vet exam is crucial to keeping eyes healthy, and your vet can help detect eye diseases in the early stages where they can best be treated.

Cleaning Your Dog's Face

Routine grooming keeps your dog's skin, coat, teeth, gums, and nails in a healthy state. It helps you detect any signs or symptoms of problems or abnormalities while it allows you to spend quality time with your pet, which helps create a special bond between you and your dog. It is, therefore, important to establish a daily or weekly grooming ritual that both you and your dog can enjoy.

If your dog refuses to be groomed, teach him to sit, stand and stay on command. In addition, grooming should always involve lots of praise and a reward for your dog.

Below are three simple steps to properly clean your dog's face:

- Gently wash the skin around the eyes using a fresh piece of moistened cotton or make-up remover pad for each one. If you notice any discharge or inflammation, contact a vet for advice.
- Hold open the ear with one hand and gently clean inside the flap with a small piece of moistened cotton or a make-up remover pad. Use a fresh piece for each ear. Do not probe too deeply into the ear canal.
- Loose facial skin must be cleaned regularly with damp cotton. This prevents dirt, dead skin, and bacteria from collecting in the folds and causing irritation and infection.



Brushing Your Dog's Teeth

Dog grooming is never complete if you do not brush your dog's teeth regularly, and that does not mean once or twice in a week.

Dog experts recommend that dogs should have their teeth brushed each day. Dental problems are one of the most common medical problems in dogs.



Ignoring your dog's dental issues can give rise to tartar, cavities, and plaque that can lead to inflammation and gingivitis. If not cured, it can be very painful and can lead to loose teeth, bone loss or infection.

A thorough dental examination can identify potential problems such as plaque and tartar build-up, gingivitis, periodontal disease, and abscessed teeth.

This is especially seen among older dogs, who are more likely to have plaque buildup. While brushing your dog's teeth, be sure to use toothpaste made for dogs. Human toothpaste may contain ingredients that can upset a dog's stomach.

Your dog might not welcome the tooth-brushing experience at first. He might even struggle.

Here's how you can go about it:

- Wrap your dog in a large towel to gently restrain it
- Make it a fun-filled experience. Follow-up the brushing with praise and play, so that your dog associates it like it's a playtime.
- If your dog simply refuses to have his teeth brushed, you can get cleansing gels available at any pet stores containing zinc ascorbate that is effective in controlling plaque and tartar when used daily.

The gel can be sprayed or rubbed inside the dog's mouth.

Dog Pedicure (Foot Care)

Dogs grow hair between the pads of their foot quite fast. If ignored, it tends to mat. Left alone, the mats increase in size and can spread the pads further apart.

Dogs need their paw hairs clipped and trimmed on a regular basis, at least monthly but sometimes weekly.

Shaggy feet make even the most neatly groomed dog look "unfinished." Simply trimming and rounding the coat around the feet can improve the unkempt appearance of those feet.

Keeping the pads neatly trimmed is an easy task. However, it needs practice.



Given below are the 7 steps for dog pedicure.

- With the dog on his side or back, hold a leg steady at an angle that is easy for you to work with.

Some dogs do better on a stand-stay either on the floor or on a table with a rubber mat. If you work from behind each foot, the dog will not freak out.

- The hand that holds the leg will have to do double duty because you'll need to spread the pads slightly apart so you can trim down between them.

- Some groomers use a clipper (such as a mustache trimmer) for this task, others a small pair of scissors or curved-bladed scissors.



- Push the hair up and away from the foot itself and hold it there.
- Brush or comb a layer of hair over the foot and trim it all the way around fairly close to the foot.
- Then brush a second layer over the foot, this time trimming it so it is slightly longer than the first layer.
- Depending on how heavily coated your dog's foot is, repeat this until the foot has a neat, rounded appearance. Do all four feet in the same way.

Dog Manicure (Trimming the Nails)

Dogs need their nails clipped (and some need the nails filed) on a regular basis, usually every 3 to 4 weeks. It is not uncommon for dog owners to wait too long between nail clippings. Overdue nails raise health issues. Extended growth can result in painful ingrown nails. Elongated nails affect the comfort and health of dogs.

Some dogs will find it difficult to place their full body weight on their feet without discomfort with elongated nails. As a result these dogs develop sore feet, legs and hips and overall discomfort. Just walking can then be a painful experience for them.

Many dogs that require little professional grooming and styling still visit groomers for a nail clipping, or a bath with nail clipping, for one reason: generally, dog owners do not like to cut nails (or are afraid to cut nails), and, as a result, many of these pets don't really care for nail clipping either.

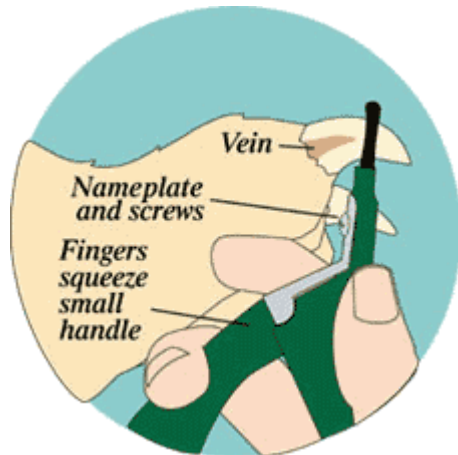


Learning how to hold and handle the dog, and properly use the correct tools, makes nail clipping and filing a much more bearable procedure for both the people and the dogs. Most nail clipping procedures cause little or no pain to the dogs.

Nail clipping is essentially the process of cutting away excess nail, and the key is to learn just what is the "excess nail." If you can hear dog nails when the dog walks on a hard floor surface, there is excess nail to clip and/or file down.

It is better to cut a small amount regularly than a large amount at once. If there is too much time between toenail clippings, the quick grows farther down into the nail. Then, when the toenail is clipped, the quick is easily nicked and begins to bleed.

By clipping toenails frequently, the quick is kept back and the danger of bleeding is not present.



However, since dogs may go many weeks between professional grooming appointments it is usually the task of groomers to reasonably clip more excess nail.

Praise the dog after nail clipping to encourage them to be less resistant to future nail clipping sessions.

Purchase dog nail clippers at a pet supply store. Kinds available include "guillotine" style, scissors style, and pliers style. The guillotine style has replaceable blades and the scissors have a notch cut in the blade to fit the nail. Never use human clippers, which can split and injure the nails.

Given below are the steps for dog manicure:

- Just after a bath is the best time when the nails are soft.
- Dogs have thick nails, so be sure your clippers have sharp blades. Ideally you should have styptic powder or pads within reach in case you nick a quick. Some flour or cornstarch can be used if you have no styptic powder.
- Clip your dog's nails under good lighting. Most dogs' nails are white or light colored, and the darker center of the quick is unmistakable. However, some have dark nails and the quick is not visible. In this case, clip only the ends of the nails.
- You may have to cut them more frequently to achieve a proper length. Cut at a perpendicular (90 degrees) angle to the nail. Remember to also clip the nail of the dewclaws. After you clip them, filing the nails with a human or dog nail file helps to smooth the sharp edges.



Dogs that are walked frequently on concrete or asphalt may not need their nails clipped as frequently as those that do not.

Combating Dog Odor

Dog odor is something that all dog owners have to live with. But there are times when your pet's odor simply drives you up the wall or you are expecting guests and don't have the time to give your pooch a bath.

Dog colognes could be the answer in these situations. Here are some do's and don'ts that you must know when buying a cologne for your dog.

- Make sure that none of the ingredients can cause irritation to your pet's skin
- Look for a scent that you and your dog will both enjoy
- Just like perfume on people, dog scents smell different on different dogs. It may therefore, be a good idea to test how long it lasts and how it works
- Choose a cologne that is free of alcohol because any product with alcohol could irritate your dog's skin. A perfume with all natural ingredients will be the best.
- Remember, a good dog cologne is the one that not only freshens up your dog's fur but also nourishes his coat and skin.
- Always cover your dog's eyes when spraying perfume. Also, beware of broken skin or sore spots and don't spray perfume on them.



Chapter 7 – Get Acquainted With Your Dog's Coat

Over 400 breeds of dog exist worldwide. Between them, they have literally dozens of coat types, divided by length, hair type, and density. What coat type does your dog have?

There are two main types of dog coats: Single and Double.

Most dogs have a double coat: a topcoat and an undercoat. The topcoat is comprised of coarse guard hairs, which are water repellent. Topcoats act as a protective shield for the dog's skin and also the elements. The undercoat is soft and fleecy and it a tad shorter than the topcoat.

The undercoat acts as insulation to keep the dog warm during winters. Most dogs blow out (shed) their coat twice a year. Dogs that only have a single coat have just the top coat and naturally these dogs shed less than their double-coated cousins.

It's important for you to know what type of coat your dog has in order to understand his grooming requirements.

Coat textures

Smooth coats

The good news is, these coats are not much of a bother when it comes to grooming. Basically, smooth coat or short coat dogs have very short hair that lays back against the dog's skin.

Dogs with these coats can be single or double coated. Bulldogs and Dalmatians have coats of this variety.



Smooth Coated Collie



Curly Coated Retriever

Curly coats

These dogs are quite rare and you will know them instantly. Their curly require a high level of maintenance, including brushing and clipping.

The Irish Water Spaniels, Poodles, and the Portuguese belong to this type.

Corded coats

These coats are twisted into dreadlocks. Maintaining them means a lot of hard work.

Also, make sure that you don't allow them to tangle into mats. Puli and Komondor have corded coats.



Komondor



Wire-Coated Fox Terrier

Wire coats

Also referred to as 'broken coat' this coat type is wavy-looking and feel a bit rough on touch.

These coats require special grooming as they need to be stripped or clipped.

Wire-haired Pointing, Wire-coated Fox Terrier are few of such dogs.

Coat Length

Hairless Dogs

These dogs have little or no hair. However, just because they are hairless does not mean they don't need grooming.

They may not require brushing but their skin does need special attention. These breeds are good for persons allergic to dogs.



Mexican Hairless Terrier



Beagle

Short Coats

These are low maintenance coats or wash and wear variety. But they might not offer enough protection against natural elements and therefore these dogs are likely to have problems during winters.

Basenji & Beagle belong to this category.

Medium Coats

Medium coats are not so short that they can't shield the dog in hostile climactic conditions; nor is it so long as to cause mats and tangles.

So the length of a medium coat is ideal. Medium coated dogs are generally double coated but the length of their coat does not make it difficult to groom. Border Collies and Cardigan Welsh Corgis belong to this category.



Border Collie



Golden Retriever

Long Coats

These dogs are the cynosure of all eyes wherever they go because of their beautiful coats. But mind you, this beauty has a tag attached to it.

These dogs need to be groomed more often and more meticulously than others. If neglected their coats tangle and mat, which certainly are any dog owner's nightmare.

Coat Color

Dog coats come in a variety of colors and given below are the basic colors.

Brown and its variants, which include mahogany, gray-brown, blackish brown.

Example: Chesapeake Bay Retriever

Red and its variants, which include chestnut, tawny, red-gold, tan, bronze.

Example: Irish Setter

Gold and its variants, which include fawn, apricot, lion-colored, yellow-gold, sandy, honey.

Example: Golden Retriever

Yellow and its variants, which include blond and lemon.

Example: Labrador Retriever

Cream: this becomes difficult to define, as there's a very fine line between pale yellow and cream. Ranges from white through ivory and blond.

Example: French Bulldog

Sable: Black-tipped hair; the background can be anything from gold to yellow, silver, gray or tan.

Example: Shetland Sheepdogs

Black: pure black but can be grizzled sometimes especially as dog age and develop white hair.

Example: Black Newfoundland

Blue: generally metallic gray.

Example: Australian Shepherds

White: pure white but not albino dogs.

Example: Bichon Frise

Many patterns also exist among dog breeds.

Some well-known patterns are: Two-color, Tricolor, Merle, Tuxedo, Harlequin, Spotted, Patched, Speckled, Brindle, Grizzled.

Coat Types: Single versus Double

A dog's coat is nothing but its fur. In general, dogs have two types of coats: single coats and double coats. The followings are some of the basic differences of the two.

- A double coat has an undercoat and a topcoat, whereas, a single coat is devoid of an undercoat.
- Double coats are harsh and longer combined with soft downy fur. On the other hand, in single coats the hair is almost even.
- In general, dogs with single coat shed less than dogs with double coats.
- Double-coated dogs are more resistant to cold and harsh weathers than the single coated ones because the undercoat in the former acts as an insulating agent.
- Single coat dogs are more prone to hypoallergenic (reduced tendency to cause allergies) than the double coat dogs.
- Double-coated dogs need regular bathing, brushing, and blow-drying unlike the single-coated ones.
- Double-coated dogs should not be shaved in the summer because his inner layer of fur acts as a cooling agent. On the other hand dogs with single coat demand grooming and haircuts during any season.
- Mats and tangles are more common in double-coated dogs than in the single coated ones.
- Single-coated dogs are more decorative than functional unlike the double-coated ones.
- The coats of single-coated dogs get easily broken off or torn if groomed with dry coats. Generally such is not the case with double-coated dogs.

Dog Breed Chart – Dog with Single Coat & Double Coat

The following list contains the names of few of the double-coated Dog breeds:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ Airedale Terrier | ✓ Great Pyrenees |
| ✓ Akita | ✓ Irish Terrier |
| ✓ Alaskan Malamute | ✓ Labrador Retriever |
| ✓ American Eskimo | ✓ Lhasa Apso |
| ✓ Anatolian Shepherd | ✓ Newfoundland |
| ✓ Australian Cattle Dog | ✓ Olde English Bulldogge |
| ✓ Australian Kelpie | ✓ Pekingese |
| ✓ Basset Griffon | ✓ Pomeranian |
| ✓ Bernese Mountain Dog | ✓ Samoyed |
| ✓ Bichon Frise | ✓ Shetland Sheepdog |
| ✓ Cardigan Welsh Corgi | ✓ Shiba Inu |
| ✓ Chinese Crested (Powder Puff) | ✓ Shih Tzu |
| ✓ Collie | ✓ St. Bernard |
| ✓ English Toy Spaniel | ✓ Tibetan Mastiff |
| ✓ Golden Retriever | ✓ West Highland White Terrier |

Sample Breeds:



Australian Kelpie



Shih Tzu



Golden Retriever

The following list contains the names of few of the single-coated Dog breeds:

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Basenji✓ Bedlington Terrier✓ Brittany Dog✓ Bolognese✓ Catahoula✓ Chihuahua✓ Dachshund✓ Havanese✓ Italian Greyhound | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Irish Water Spaniel✓ Kerry Blue Terrier✓ Maltese✓ Papillon✓ Poodle✓ Portuguese Water Dog✓ Schnauzer (All types)✓ Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier✓ Yorkshire Terrier |
|--|---|

Sample Breeds:



Chihuahua



Italian Greyhound



Kerry Blue Terrier

Grooming Double-coated Breeds

“Double-coated” means what it says—these dogs have two layers of coat. Their outer coat is usually longer, firm and somewhat darker than the soft and dense undercoat. It would be safe to say that a majority of dogs have some kind of an undercoat beneath the guard hair of their coat.

Among the various double-coated; you will notice a huge variation in the length of their coats. While some breeds might have short, dense coats they are others who have long wooly ones. And these are the ones that are a nightmare when it comes to grooming.

Actually, you would be tempted to pick up the shears instead of the brush when you think of grooming them! However, it's advisable to care for their coats than shaving them off as these coats protect them from heat stroke and sunburn.

Brushing Basics

- **Mats & Tangles:** These can mean big trouble for you. So the best way out is to prevent them from forming in the first place. And doing this is simple: just brush and comb your dog regularly. If and when you see any mats or tangles; use a detangle solution and a medium toothed comb.
- Brush against the growth of the hair first with a slicker brush and then with a medium or wide toothed comb, depending on the thickness of the coat. The slicker brush removes all the loose hair and the comb takes care of the tangles.
- Brush your dog along the hair growth and make sure you reach the skin as you brush his way.
- Then use a flea comb over the coat to get the fleas and removing any remaining tangles. Part the coat and start from the root and then comb through.
- If your dog's paw pads are hairy then clip them using electric clippers. Do not clip the hair in between the pads. Clip only the excess hair.

Surviving Shedding

Generally speaking, double-coated dogs blow their coats twice a year. Nevertheless, you may occasionally come across breeds (especially in temperate climates), which shed the whole year.

Shedding begins quite gently when you small tufts of hair popping out through the topcoat. As soon as you see it that, you must start brushing and combing your dog every day or else be prepared for a 'hair everywhere' scenario.

The only tool that handles your pet's hair efficiently when he's shedding is the shedding blade and so it would be a good idea to invest in one. This blade pulls hair from the dog in a single stroke and heaps it on the ground; making clearing or keeping it so easy.

Bathing Your Dog : Step by step

- After the pre-bath brush, wet your dog thoroughly with tepid water. Make sure that he is wet right up to the skin.
- Using a ph-balanced shampoo, work up a good lather and lather his entire coat except the area around his face and eyes. Use a wet cloth for that area.
- Rinse thoroughly. Make sure there is no residue left on the skin or undercoat.
- Apply a conditioner that keeps hair from tangling and rinse well again.
- Dry the coat using a blow dryer. Dry with the grain if you want the hair to lay flat but if you want them to stand up then back brush.

Preparing for the show

- Basic steps:
- Trim toenails
- Brush coat
- Remove mats
- Bathe & Dry
- Trim the coat and clip stray hair
- When appropriate, use coat dressing to smarten your dog's coat

Conditioning & Making Hair Stand-up

Coat conditioners are used to add volume to your dog's hair before the show. You must however, know that a coat conditioner can't make a bad coat look great. But yes, it will improve it hugely.

To make your dog's hair stand-up for the show, first, while blow-drying it against the grain, back brush it so that it puffs up. Then use a bodifier and back brush again. If the hair starts to lay back down, then use a bodifier and back brush as often as required.

Grooming Corded Coats

The corded coat consists of strong topcoat entwining a soft, woolly undercoat. Typically cords begin to form when the puppy is shedding his puppy coat and growing his adult one. Much care is required for corded coats to be properly nurtured and maintained. Avoiding fleas and skin problems is imperative.

Caring Before the Cords Form

- Remove all tangles and mats using a detangle solution and a medium-toothed comb. You must however learn to distinguish between a forming cord and a mat. Remember, if the hair is trying to fall lengthwise, it's a cord; otherwise it's a mat

and needs to be detangled.

- Back brush, or brush against the grain first using a slicker brush and then using a medium-toothed comb. Slicker brush removes the loose hairs and using a comb ensures there are no tangles and also removes hair.
- Using a slicker brush, brush with the grain making sure you reach right up to the skin
- Check for fleas and detangle any mats using the flea comb. Part the coat, start from the root and comb through.
- Clip excess hair between pads with electric clippers
- You may also trim the hair around the anal area and belly for neater look and certainly more hygienic

Formation of cords is a natural process and there's not much you can do inhibit it or to boost it. However, while the cords are forming you must separate them with your fingers and also brush out hair that isn't part of the cord.

It takes a few years for the cords to mature and all this while you must be patient. Daily grooming and prevention of mat and tangle formation is the mantra for successful cord formation.

Maintaining the Cords

When the cords form your main job is to keep them clean and free from tangles and mats. The corded coat actually doubles up like a mop taking in all the dirt from the floor. So you need to bathe him quite frequently to keep the cords clean and maintain a healthy skin and coat.

You can trim the cords using clippers or scissors as that will prevent mat formation. It is also advisable to clip the dog's underside and the area around his anus and genitals to avoid problems.

If you find the cords too much of a bother to maintain then you can keep them trimmed to about four inches to keep them off the ground.

Bathing Basics

- Wet your dog properly. Now this might not be as simple a task as it sounds; especially with corded coats. You will need lots of water to soak him right up to the skin
- Using a ph-shampoo, lather his coat meticulously, working up a rich lather.
- Rinse the shampoo thoroughly starting from the skin and working outwards to ensure that no residue is left behind. This is very crucial as leaving any residue would mean a dirty dog again in a short time.

Any dirt in the cords may result in an infection at a later stage.

- Repeat steps 2 and 3 with a good conditioner
- Rinse conditioner thoroughly

Drying

- Starting from the top and working downwards: take a handful of cords and wring out the excess water. Wring them until you can't get any water out.
- Now, use a towel and squeeze out the water.
- Using a dog hair dryer, blow-dry the coat fully. This really takes awfully long but you must do it. If your dog is not dried properly he will mildew in which case you will either have to clip the cords or seek professional help depending on how bad the problem is.

Preparing for Show

Basic preparation

- Trim toenails
- Trim shoddy cords
- Bathe & Dry the dog
- Keep the dog clean

Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Corded Coats

Given below are few of the breeds that have Corded coats:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Komondor | ✓ Spanish Water Dog |
| ✓ Corded Poodle | ✓ Puli |

Sample Breeds:



Spanish Water Dog



Komondor

Grooming Clipped Breeds

Dogs are clipped for primarily two reasons: firstly, because their coats need it and secondly, because their breed standard specifies it. Clipping a dog, as you will realize, requires experience and practice and has developed somewhat into an art form!

Brushing These Dogs Depending on their Coat-types

Terrier Type Coats:

These coats are mostly wire-haired and the good news is that these coats are better at resisting tangles and mats than other breeds. Brush the coat twice a week and that should suffice. Here are the steps to follow while brushing:

- Brush the coat with a slicker brush
- Back brush or brush against the grain with a slicker brush and then back into place.
- Using a undercoat rake or a shedding blade, remove all the loose hairs
- Finish brushing by using a medium or fine-toothed comb
- Check for fleas by running a flea comb through the entire coat

Spaniel Type Coats:

The Spaniel-type coat is like the long-haired dogs and needs daily brushing to keep them clean and prevent mats. Steps to follow while brushing:

- Check for tangles and mats and remove them using a detangler solution and a medium-toothed comb
- Back brush or brush against the grain with a slicker brush and then back into place.
- Using a undercoat rake or a shedding blade, remove all the loose hairs
- Finish brushing by using a medium or fine-toothed comb
- Check for fleas by running a flea comb through the entire coat

Poodle Type Coats:

These coats are curly and so have a tendency to tangle or mat. They must, therefore, be brushed everyday. Steps to follow:

- Check for tangles and mats and remove them using a detangler solution and a medium-toothed comb

- Brush the entire coat first using a pin brush and then again using a slicker brush. This will remove all the loose hairs and prevent tangles from forming
- Using a medium-toothed comb, comb the curls
- Check for fleas by running a flea comb through the entire coat. This will also take care of the remaining tangles

Bathing

The pre-bath brushing should be followed by a pre-bath clipping. This is done mainly to trim any unkempt hair or get any frizzy stuff out. However, if your dog is horribly dirty, then you may have to skip the pre-bath clip entirely and do a complete clipping after the bath.

A pre-bath clip is just a trim and your dog must be thoroughly brushed before the clip.

- Wet your dog properly. You will need lots of water to soak him right up to the skin and mind you it can be quite a task
- Using a ph-shampoo, lather his coat properly, working up a rich lather. Keep the shampoo out of your dog's face and eyes. Use a wet cloth instead.
- Rinse the entire coat thoroughly
- Apply dog coat conditioner to prevent tangles
- Repeat Step-3, squeeze out the excess water and rinse again
- Dry the coat completely using a dog hair dryer

Clipping Your Dog's Coat

There are ways in which you can clip your dog depending on the breed. Some of the basic cuts you can choose from are Terrier cuts (for Terrier-type coats), Spaniel cuts (for sporting dogs), and Poodle-type cuts (for curly-coated dogs).

Preparing for Show

If you plan to show your dog in a competition, then you have to clip your dog in a cut that is meant for showing dogs. The cuts described above are pet cuts and not show cuts. Show cuts have to conform to the breed standard and the appearance that it dictates.

- Check whether your dog's clip is correct a week before the show and make any minor changes if needed.
- A night before the show : bathe & dry your dog; brush his coat; do a coat maintenance clip; trim his toenails.
- If applicable, apply leave-in conditioner to your dog's coat and remove any tear stains before the show

Dog Breed Chart – Coats That Need to be Clipped

Given below are few of the breeds that needs to be clipped:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| ✓ Portugese Water Dog | ✓ Havanese |
| ✓ Lowchen | ✓ Bichon Frise |
| ✓ Standard Poodle | ✓ Lhasa Apso |

Sample Breeds:



Lowchen



Havanese



Lhasa Apso

Grooming Stripping Breeds

Basically, stripping means clearing the dead undercoat from the rest of the dog's coat. Almost all wire-haired dogs, as also the terriers, need to be stripped. If neglected their coats end up looking fuzzy and life-less.

Most pet owners wonder why they should strip when they can achieve relatively similar results with clipping. But if conforming to breed standards is important to you, then you cannot get away by clipping a stripped breed.

Brushing Basics

- Remove tangles or mats using a detangler solution and a medium toothed comb.
- Back brush or brush against the grain, first with a slicker brush and then with a medium-toothed comb
- Now brush with the grain using a slicker brush
- Get rid of any fleas by running a flea comb over the entire coat

Right Time To Strip

When you see your dog's hair bunching into small lumps and on plucking if it come off easily, you should know that it's time for stripping. Another indication is: the coat should be a 'tight fit' against the dog's body and when it doesn't seem so, then it's time to strip.

Bathing

Pre-Bath Strip

As you are aware, brushing and combing your dog's hair before the bath is common to all breeds. In addition to this, the stripped breeds need a pre-bath strip as well, which cleans all the loose hair and simplifies the bathing process.

Follow these steps:

- Wet your dog properly. You will need lots of water to soak him right up to the skin.
- Using a ph-shampoo, lather his coat properly, working up a rich lather. Keep the shampoo out of your dog's face and eyes. Use a wet cloth instead
- Rinse the entire coat thoroughly
- Apply a good quality dog coat conditioner to prevent tangles. Don't use a conditioner that will make the hair soft. Wire-breeds are supposed to have coarse coats.

- Repeat Step-3, squeeze out the excess water and rinse again
- Dry the coat completely using a dog hair dryer

Stripping Your Dog's Coat

Tools you need: A stripping knife OR A shedding Blade OR simply your fingers. There are two basic methods to do this:

- Taking the coat down: means removing all the loose hair at one time
- Rolling: means removing the loose hair in parts and not all at one go. It's easier and requires less time but overall takes a longer period to make your dog's entire coat reach show condition.

Using a stripping knife

This is possibly the easiest way to strip your dog's coat. Just take some hair between your thumb and the knife blade and pull away the knife away from the dog's body with the grain. Remember to pull out only the loose hair. Do the same for the entire coat.

Shedding Blade

Shedding blade is meant for big time stripping. This is basically a large blade with small teeth. You have to drag the blade over the dog's coat and it pulls out all the hair. Be careful not to injure your dog's skin while using it.

Hand Stripping

All groomers are unanimously agree that the best stripping is done with bare hands. In this method, you look for loose hair or small clumps while going over your dog's coat. Then, grasping the hair with your thumb and forefinger, pull the hair out gently but firmly. Repeat as often as required.

Rolling The Coat

Rolling is a term used to describe a particular type pf stripping method. It can be done either by hand or by using a knife. In this method you strip or pluck one section of the coat on a day and then in some days you do the other.

This way you finish stripping the entire coat. Because you follow a certain pattern moving from one section to another, this method is called **rolling**.

On the plus side, rolling seems faster as you do not need hours like when you strip the entire coat. On the minus side; this method needs you to work on your dog's coat for nearly six months before it can reach show quality. So if you want to show you dog in a few months, you can't do it because your dog's coat would not be show quality.

Preparing For The Show

Basic steps:

- Trim the toenails
- Brush your dog's coat
- Remove mats or tangles
- Give him a Pre-Bath Strip
- Bathe and Dry your dog
- Brush your dog
- Strip your dog
- Clip any stray hair
- If required, apply coat dressing

Dog Breed Chart – Coats That Need to be Stripped

Few of the breeds that needs stripping are as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ German Wirehaired✓ Scottish Deerhound✓ Wirehaired Pointing Griffon✓ Spinone Italiano | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Miniature Schnauzer✓ Airedale Terrier✓ Black Russian Terrier✓ Affenpinscher |
|---|--|

Sample Breeds:



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Airedale Terrier

Chapter 8 – Dog Breed and Grooming

Different breeds of dogs have different types of coats. Naturally, their grooming needs and the methods to use will also differ. Equipment used to groom a curly-coated dog will not be the same as that used for a medium-coated dog.

Proper grooming will only be possible if the dog owner possesses the right amount of knowledge on the grooming procedures for the breed of dog he owns.

Grooming the Short-haired or Smooth-coated Dogs

Some dogs have short and smooth, low maintenance, shedding coats that require little more than regular brushing with a rubber brush or a short bristled brush.

Rubbing with a hound glove or mitt a couple of times a week will remove dead hair.

In addition, these dogs should be bathed about every three or four months. It is important to clean the ears every week to avoid wax build up. The nails should be clipped once a month. And don't forget to check their eyes each day.

Items needed to groom the Short-haired or Smooth-coated Dog:

- Rubber brush
- Short Bristled Brush
- Hound Glove
- Ear Powder (medicated)
- Chamois cloth
- Scissors or Thinning Shears
- Nail Clipper (scissors type) and file
- Lanolin Coat Conditioner

How to do it:

- Brush the coat thoroughly with a short bristle brush and a hound glove.
- Clean the ears by dusting the inside with medicated ear powder.
- Trim the nails with a scissors-type nail clipper, removing only the tips of the nails to avoid cutting the quick.
- Bathe and then dry the dog.
- Scissor the whiskers on the muzzle as well as any long hair over the eyes and on the face.
- Remove unruly hairs from the rear legs and tail with thinning shears or stripping knife. Apply a lanolin coat conditioner by first putting a small amount on your hands

and then rubbing it onto the coat. Use a chamois cloth to rub the coat briskly and give it a shiny appearance.

Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Short/Smooth Coat

Given below are few of the breeds with short or smooth coat:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ Whippet | ✓ Parson Russell Terrier |
| ✓ Boxer | ✓ Miniature Pinscher |
| ✓ Greyhound | ✓ Brussels Griffon |
| ✓ Shiloh Shepherd | ✓ Border Collie |

Sample Breeds:



Brussels Griffon



Whippet



Greyhound

Grooming a Wavy or Curly-Coated Sporting Breed

Grooming a dog with a curly or a wavy coat (like a Bichon Frise) is not as simple as grooming one that has a short and smooth coat. For example, take the “water breeds” like the Curly-Coated Retriever or Portuguese Water Dog.

They are sporting dogs with extremely harsh curly coats. Because these dogs typically spend a lot of time out in the field, retrieving items from water, flushing upland game, and serving as all-purpose hunting companions, their coats should be kept short and neat. If they are not, then their long and straggly curls will latch onto every stray twig, burr, or piece of debris.

If your wavy or curly-coated dog is to be shown, then his coat should be scissored into a neat shape, and this precise method of scissoring the curly coat takes a lot of time and work.

Owners who keep curly-coated sporting breeds for hunting and as pets are much more likely to clip them down with an electric clipper to a length of about 2 inches (with the exception of the Curly-coated Retriever, whose coat is short enough that it doesn't require clipping).

Items you will need for grooming a Curly-Coated Dog:

- Pin brush
- Slicker brush
- Steel comb
- De-matting tool
- Scissors
- Thinning shears
- Nail clipper
- Ear powder
- Forceps (or tweezers) and cotton balls
- Electric clipper with blades and combs if desired

For daily grooming, use a pin brush to keep the coat from matting and to make it look fluffy. A slicker brush should be used when a pin brush will not suffice. It will enable you to brush a mat that is beginning to form. A wide-toothed steel comb will help you work out mats.

Careful use of thinning shears will keep the hair out of the eyes. This will minimize eye irritation.

Use of the de-matting tool should be left to those who are confident in its use. It is great for breaking up serious mats, but is very sharp. If your dog is wiggly and you have no grooming table, you should have the help of a professional groomer.

The following are seven steps to groom your wavy or curly-coated sporting breed:

- Before bathing your dog, brush out the entire coat with a pin brush and/or a slicker brush to remove as much dead coat as possible. This will also help eliminate

tangles. Remove mats with a mat comb or coat rake, or cut through them with scissors and then work them out with the brush or comb.

- Next, run a comb through the entire coat to make sure you have removed every tangle. This step may take some time because you do not want to comb too fast and yank out any hair from the skin.
- Scissor the leg hair evenly removing excess hair.
- Cut hair from under the foot and between the footpads. The foot should look rounded and should blend in with the leg hair, appearing like a powder puff over the foot.
- Clip the torso down to 2 inches, or scissor off fuzz and shape by scissoring the sides to tidy up. Shape the sides and rear to best match the shape of the breed. An imperfect form can be slightly adjusted by the shape in which you trim the curly coat.
- Make sure to take off just a little at a time, periodically standing back to check the shape of the dog. It is also good to have a picture of a well-groomed specimen of your breed in order to have a better idea of the proper way of trimming.
- After the bath, do not blow-dry or brush the body coat. Let the curls or waves air-dry naturally in order for them to stay intact.

Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Curly/Wavy Coat

The following dog breeds are curly or wavy coated breeds:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ Curly-Coated Retriever | ✓ Irish Water Spaniel |
| ✓ Portuguese Water Dog | ✓ American Water Spaniel |
| ✓ Australian Labradoodle | ✓ Miniature Schnauzer |

Sample Breeds:



Australian Labradoodle



Irish Water Spaniel

Grooming the Medium Coat

Another type of coat that is easy to groom is the medium coat.

Many medium-coated dogs should remain entirely natural without trimming, clipping, or shaping. The medium coat does not tangle, mat, hold on to dirt, or require special attention other than regular brushing and the occasional bath. Long hair on the feet should be trimmed, particularly between toe pads where mats can easily form.

Keep in mind that you can make slight adjustments to improve the shape of your dog by trimming the head and then the body to balance an uneven dog. However, a few medium-coated breeds require special trimming in order to compete in the show ring.

Let us take the “sporting spaniels” for example. These dogs have the top third of their ears trimmed with clippers or thinning shears. The ruff on a spaniel's neck can be trimmed to an inch above the breastbone and blended into the shoulders.

Other breeds with medium coats require very little coat trimming. When applicable, you can also make small adjustments in shaping the ruff, rear furnishings and ear hair.

Basically, leave your medium-coated breed in a natural state, only neatening stray hairs without having to change the dog's outline. The basic rule for medium-coated dogs is to brush often to remove dead hair. High-maintenance grooming is not necessary.

The essential tools for grooming the medium coat are as follows:

- Pin Brush
- Slicker Brush
- Steel Comb
- Thinning Shears
- Coat Rake
- Hound Glove
- Shedding Comb or Blade
- Rubber Brush
- Forceps or tweezers and cotton balls
- Ear powder (medicated)
- Nail clipper
- Blow-dryer with low or cool setting

Every day, or at least once a week, give your dog a good, thorough brushing.

However, during your monthly grooming sessions, you may apply the following 6 steps after giving your dog a bath.

- Dry the medium coat with a towel.
- When your dog is completely dry, have him stand. Step back and take a good look at his outline.
- Compare it to a picture of a well-groomed show dog of the same breed. Look for long, stray hairs, shaggy areas, or other imbalances.

- Using a scissors, clip off hairs longer than the ones around them and straighten shaggy outlines that are not supposed to be shaggy. Never clip more than a few hairs without stopping and standing back to check again. If you trim at close range for too long, you can easily overdo the job.
- Finally, you may spray your dog's coat with a little coat conditioner to keep it resilient and easy to brush.

Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Medium Coat

Few of the Breeds with medium coats are given below:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Australian Shepherd | ✓ French Spaniel |
| ✓ Bulgarian Shepherd Dog | ✓ Golden Retriever |
| ✓ Cairn Terrier | ✓ Irish Setter |
| ✓ Cardigan Welsh Corgi | ✓ Pumi |
| ✓ English Springer Spaniel | ✓ Shiloh Shepherd |

Sample Breeds:



Bulgarian Shepherd Dog



Shiloh Shepherd



Pumi

Grooming the Long Coat

The long-coated breeds (Irish Setter and Springer Spaniel for example) are characterized by a certain appealing full fluffiness, as opposed to the parted-coat breeds (like Afghan Hound or Lhasa Apso), which are characterized by long, smooth, flowing hair, which is more similar to long human hair.

You will need the following equipment for grooming your long-coated dog:

- Pin brush
- Slicker brush
- Steel comb
- De-matting tool
- Thinning shears
- Nail clipper
- Ear powder
- Forceps (or tweezers) and cotton balls
- Nail clipper

Keep these effective tips in mind when grooming long-coated dogs:

- Think of the coat standing out from the body, rather than lying flat against the skin.
- When you have finished giving your dog a bath, below is a step-by-step process on how to groom that long fluffy coat.
- After drying your dog, blow-dry the long coat to keep it from drying into tangles. With the blow-dryer on cool or low setting, work from the bottom up, using the pin brush or slicker brush to fluff-dry.

Divide the hair into sections with the pin brush or slicker brush and hold them out from the body as you blow-dry.

- Keep the blow dryer moving over each piece of hair until it is dry, and then work your way up. Start with the legs and rear end and work your way up and forward. Keep brushing and fluffing for fullness, keeping the coat free from tangles.
- Finish by running a metal comb through the coat to make sure that you did not miss a single tangle or snag.
- With a #10 blade on your electric clipper, shave your dog's anal area to keep it clean and free of long hair and tangles. Be careful not to touch the blade directly on your dog's skin. Another way of keeping this area clean is to clip it neatly with scissors.
- Depending on the breed or if you like the idea of having your dog's underside free of long hair, with the same #10 blade, shave your dog's abdomen from groin to naval and down the insides of both thighs. Shave with the lay of the hair.
- Trim between your dog's paw pads with scissors, and if hair covers the feet, trim around the feet so the hair reaches the ground evenly around the paw in a rounded

shape.

- Brush and comb the hair on your dog's head, ears, and face.
- Stand back and look at the dog's shape. Scissor any stray long hairs without changing the shape of the coat. Just look for uneven, stray areas that stand out after brushing.
- To finish the dog and take advantage of the coat's fluffiness, spray it with coat conditioner or coat dressing to keep it soft and in place, then brush lightly over the top of the coat to set. Brush from bottom up and from shoulders forward to fluff the ruff. Fluff the tail, the body, and the chest.

Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Long Coat

Few of the Breeds with long coats are given below:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ American White Shepherd | ✓ Lhasa Apso |
| ✓ Australian Terrier | ✓ Long Haired Chihuahua |
| ✓ Belgian Shepherd | ✓ Long-haired Dachshund |
| ✓ Belgian Tervuren | ✓ Long haired German Shepherd |
| ✓ Havanese | ✓ Maltese |
| ✓ German Longhaired Pointer | ✓ Russian Toy Terrier |
| ✓ Great Pyrenees | ✓ Skye Terrier |
| ✓ Japanese Spitz | ✓ Shetland Sheepdog |

Sample Breeds:



Skye Terrier



Great Pyrenees

Grooming the Wire-Coated Dog

Wire-coated dogs have specialized needs in grooming.

The pieces of equipment needed to groom the Wire-haired dogs are:

- Pin brush
- Slicker brush
- Steel comb
- Stripping comb (Mars comb)
- Stripping knives
- Thinning shears
- Straight shears
- Hair dryer
- Forceps (or tweezers) and cotton balls
- Ear powder
- Nail clippers

The following are the steps to groom your wire-coated dog:

- Before bathing your dog, brush out the entire coat with a pin brush and/or a slicker brush to remove as much dead coat as possible. This will also help eliminate tangles. Remove mats with a mat comb or coat rake, or cut through them with scissors and then work them out with the brush or comb.

Thinning shears can be used to break up the mat. If mats are not completely brushed out, the conditioner used in the bath can be worked into the mat (and rinsed well) to make it easier to brush out after the bath.

- After the bath, towel dry dog as much as possible.
- Clean ears of dirt and wax build up with cotton balls dipped in ear cleaning solution. Pluck hair from ears using medicated ear powder and forceps. You should remove hair with dry powder **first**, before using the wet ear cleaning solution.
- Clean the eye area with warm water and cotton balls and remove eye matter.
- Clip nails with appropriate nail clipper and use septic powder to stop bleeding if needed.
- Use electric clippers to clear away hair between pads of feet if you are comfortable and familiar with the electric clippers, using a #10 or #15 blade. You may also use curved or blunt shears.
- Using a warm dryer, brush the coat with a slicker brush while blow drying. This will straighten the coat and make it easier to scissor later.
- When finished drying, comb through any longer areas. Depending on the breed, you will need to neaten the feet up with scissors, trimming any stray hairs between toes and around edges of the feet.

Ears will need to be edged as well using care not to cut the leather of the ear. Thinning shears should be used under and around the eyes to trim away stray hairs that might irritate the eyes.

- If the coat is dense and you would like it thinned out, then Mar's combs will allow you to decrease the coat and still leave it in a natural state. They are drawn through the coat just like a regular comb but will cut away some if it with each pass.

Stripping knives serve the same purpose of reducing density of coat but do so by plucking the hair from the hair root. This procedure is used mostly for show grooms but if you are interested in knowing how then an experienced groomer should first demonstrate how it is done.

- Finally, a spray of conditioning product will make your terrier's coat shine and keep it easy to brush in the future.

Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Wiry Coat

The following breeds are wire-coated dogs:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ Wire Fox Terrier | ✓ Schnauzers (All Sizes) |
| ✓ Wire Dachshund | ✓ Wirehaired Pointing Griffon |
| ✓ Airedale Terrier | ✓ German Wirehaired Pointer |
| ✓ Polish Lowland Sheepdog | ✓ Wirehaired Vizsla |

Sample Breeds:



Wire Dachshund



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

Grooming the Labrador Retriever



The Labrador Retriever has a medium but smooth shedding coat that is water resistant and is relatively easy to care for. This breed needs to be bathed every three or four months.

The coat should be brushed regularly to help keep it clean and shiny. The ears should be cleaned weekly and the nails should be clipped monthly.

The seven pieces of equipment needed for grooming the Labrador Retriever are:

- The Shedding Blade
- Stiff Bristle Brush
- Steel Comb
- Nail Clipper
- Ear Powder
- Scissors
- Lanolin Coat Conditioner.

How to do it:

- Brush the coat thoroughly with a stiff bristle brush and then comb through to remove any dead hair. A shedding blade may also be used in removing large amounts of shedding hair, especially in the spring and fall.
- Clean the ears by dusting the inside with medicated ear powder and then cleaning with a cotton swab. Clip or pluck ear hair. And dust ears again, as needed, with medicated ear powder or boric acid powder.
- Trim the nails with a heavy-duty, pliers-type nail clipper, to prevent the nails from splitting. Make sure to only remove the tips of the nails to prevent cutting the quick.
- Bathe and cage dry. Or, towel dry and then use a handheld hairdryer.
- Scissor the whiskers on the muzzle. For a nice look, use thinning shears to scissor any long hair over the eyes and on the face.
- Apply a lanolin coat conditioner by first putting a small amount on your hands and then rubbing it onto the coat. Alternatively, spray your dog's coat with a little coat conditioner to keep it resilient and easy to brush.

Grooming the Poodle

Grooming and trimming your fluffy Poodle dog with those fancy haircuts we often see can take a lot of practice. Fortunately we have outlined a step-by-step system that will guide you through the process.



The first step is obtaining the proper equipment. You will need these items:

- Slicker Brush
- Steel Comb
- Electric clippers with #15, #10, and possibly #7 blades
- Toenail clippers
- Ear Powder (preferably medicated).

How to do it:

- First clean the ears by dusting the inside with medicated ear powder and pulling out any dead hair with your fingers. Excess hair can be plucked with forceps. Cut the nails with a scissors-type nail clipper, removing only the tips of the nails so as not to cut the quick.
- Clip the feet with a #15 blade using the ankle bone as your guideline. Using the corner of the blade, clip up one side and then up the opposite side of each toe. Scoop the hair out from between the pads on the backs of the feet.
- Clip the face with a #15 blade. Clip from the bottom of the ear up to the corner of the mouth. Using the same blade, clip under the eye and down the sides of the muzzle, and from the stop (between the eyes) to the tip of the nose.



Stretch the lips back with your thumb to remove the hair around this area. If a mustache is preferred, leave the hair on the muzzle from just behind the corners of the mouth to the nose, clipping only from the stop down the muzzle to the nose, using the #15 blade.

- Clip the tail with the #15 blade going against the direction of fur growth on the topside and with the direction of fur growth on the underside. The amount of hair clipped from the tail depends on the length of the tail and how much pom-pom is

desired at the end.

- Clip the stomach area (from the groin to the navel) with the #10 blade. To set the pattern on the body use either a #10 or a #7 blade. Clip from the base of the skull to the base of the tail. With the same blade, clip down the entire rear leg to 1/4 inch above the hock joint. Also clip on the inside of the leg down to the same point.
- Clip down the sides of the neck, using the same blade, to the elbow, and then to a line on the front leg even with the line at the hock joint on the rear leg. Clip on the inside of the leg down to the same line. Clip the rest of the body with the same blade, going in the direction of fur growth on the back and chest.
- Brush the remaining hair on the legs with a slicker brush. Comb through the hair to make sure it is mat free. Bathe and dry. Use the fluff-dry method on the topknot, ears, tail pom-pom and leg pom-poms (bracelets).
- Comb through the coat thoroughly after drying. Scissor around the cuffs on the legs to even them off. Tease the leg pom-poms (bracelets) and scissor them so that they appear round and fluffy.

Scissor the front legs the same as the rear legs. Comb the head and ears. Tease the head with your comb and then scissor so it appears round and fluffy. Scissor the tail pom-pom so that it appears round and fluffy.

Detailed Grooming Chart

Given below is a chart that shows how many times you need to groom your dog and what tools to use. However, this depends upon the type of coat your dog has.

The details are as follows:

| Type of Coat | Breed Examples | How Many Times To Groom | Tools to be Used |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Short & Double Coat | Labrador Retriever; Golden Retriever; German Shepard; Rottweiler | Twice a week | Slicker Brush or Pin Brush; Medium- or Large-tooth Comb; Undercoat Rake; Shedding Blade; Dematting Tool |
| Long & Silky Coat | Yorkshire Terrier; Maltese | Three or four times a week | Slicker Brush or Pin Brush; Fine- or Medium-tooth Comb |
| Long & Coarse Coat | Lhasa Apso; Shih Tzu | Three or four times a week | Slicker, Bristle or Pin Brush; Medium-tooth Comb; Dematting Tool |
| Long & Double Coat | Collie; Samoyed | Three or four times a week | Slicker or Pin Brush; Large-tooth Comb; Shedding Comb or Shedding Blade; Undercoat Rake; Dematting Tool |
| Short & Wiry Coat | Airedale; Terrier; Schnauzer | Twice a week | Slicker Brush; Medium-tooth Comb; Stripping Knife |
| Short & Smooth Coat | Beagle; Doberman Pincher; Pug | Once a week | Bristle Brush; Grooming Glove; Fine-tooth Comb |
| Wavy & Curly Coat | Curly-coated Retriever, Irish Water Spaniel, Poodle | Twice a week | Slicker Brush; Medium-tooth Comb; Dematting Tool |
| Hairless Coat | Chihuahua; Chinese Crested | Twice a Month | Grooming Glove or Rubber Grooming Brush |

Chapter 9 – Special Grooming for Special Coats

These categories of dogs require special type of grooming. Their grooming tools and equipments along with support items are also different.

We have divided them into three categories:

- Special Grooming for the Wrinkle–skinned Dog
- Special Grooming for the Bald/Hairless Dog
- Special Grooming for the Long-haired Dog

Special Grooming for the Wrinkle–skinned Dog

Dogs with wrinkled skin need quite an amount of grooming and care. Such dogs have facial folds, which need to be cleaned, every other day, every week or every month depending on the dog. Many of the dogs' nails grow pretty fast, and need to be trimmed often.

Dirt and moisture tend to find home in the wrinkled or creased skin of dogs like Pug, Shar Pei, and Bulldog that needs to be cleaned everyday with a damp cloth to avoid skin disorders.

Items you will need for grooming a Wrinkle-Skinned Dog:

- Flexible rubber bristled Brush
- Slicker brush
- Nail clippers
- Small scissors
- Soft washcloth
- Cotton balls

Owing to their fine coat, many people think that grooming is not important, or seldom needed. This is not true! To keep their coat shiny and beautiful it must be groomed about at least thrice a week.

The following are 10 steps to groom your wrinkle-skinned breed:

- The main areas of concern are the coat, the nails, the ears and of course those cute, trademark wrinkles. Lets start with brushing.
- Brush at least 3 times a week with any good dog brush that fits your hand comfortably. Start at the back and move forward. Then brush from front to back.

- Your aim in brushing is to remove dead hair. This will keep your dog's skin healthy and his coat shiny and smooth.
- A dog that is regularly brushed will not need frequent bathing. When it is time for a bath you will need to gather up everything you will need including: shampoo, cotton balls, washcloth and towel.
- Use water that is lukewarm and try to give the bath in the morning so that he naturally dry himself in the sun
- Begin by placing a cotton ball in each of your dog's ears. Then thoroughly wet him from just behind the ears to his tail being sure to get the underside also.

Apply the shampoo and work it in thoroughly everywhere including between the toes, under the tail and the genital area.

- Use a washcloth with shampoo to clean his face and wrinkles. Use a cotton ball to clean the inside of your dog's ears but don't go too far in. Now rinse thoroughly so that every bit of shampoo is off him.

Remove the cotton balls from his ears. Towel dry, and then simply let him drip dry.

- Trim the nails at least twice a week with a nail clipper.
- With a damp cloth and wipe the face to remove all the dirt and excess moisture around the eyes. Eye cleaning solutions are available in the market but ask your dog's vet before using any.
- Wipe the eyes out with cotton ball or by rolling a Q-tip lightly just inside the eyelid.

Extra-care for the Wrinkles

You will notice that dogs like Pugs, Bulldogs, Shar-Peis have faces that are covered with wrinkles. These loose, wrinkly skin special care like cleaning every other day.

The reason is quite simple. A lot of dirt and moisture can collect under your dog's wrinkles and can lead to an infection if not properly cleaned and maintained. If you can clean at least thrice a week, that's okay.

Use a wet cloth with shampoo to clean them. Use a dry soft cloth to dry the wrinkles thoroughly. You can try applying some corn starch/baby powder/medicated powder in your dog's wrinkles to keep them dry and flaky but do that after the cleaning is over.

Baby wipes with aloe and lanolin are great for wrinkle cleaning.

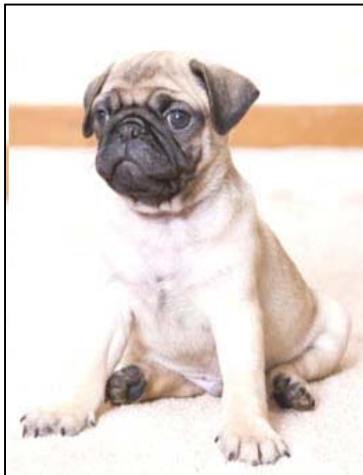
If your dog has a heavy nose wrinkle, lift it and clean, rinse and dry it well, the tail pocket should also be cleaned the same way.

Dog Breed Chart – Dogs with Wrinkled Skin

The following list contains the names of few of the breeds that are wrinkle-skinned:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| ✓ Australian Bulldog | ✓ Pug |
| ✓ Bulldog | ✓ Pekingese |
| ✓ Neapolitan Mastiff | ✓ Shar Pei |
| ✓ Olde Victorian Bulldogge | |

Sample Breeds:



Pug



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei

Special Grooming for the Bald/Hairless Dog

Dogs with little to no fur are called the bald breeds or the hairless breed. Owing to their lack of hair (that acts as a guard from the harmful whimsies of Nature) such dogs need constant protection from sun, dryness and cold.

Their bald skin tends to be extremely fragile. Thus you need to be careful to avoid cuts and tears.

Dogs like American Hairless Terrier or Chinese (Hairless) Crested have delicate skin that cannot take direct sunrays. Thus they require sunscreen lotion before being taken outside.

Items you will need for grooming a Hairless Dog:

- Combs
- Pin Brush
- Pet Sunscreen lotions
- Pet Anti-Dryness Moisturizers

Brushing & Bathing

- Many suffer from the misconception that hairless breeds don't need any brushing since they have no hair. Although it's not that simple.
- A hairless dog with a crest would require brushing with a pin or a slicker brush to un-mat the matted hair. If the crest has longer hair, then you might have to brush his hairs everyday.

If you encounter a tangle, gently untangle it. Also be very gentle because the pins on those pin brushes can hurt.

- After the pre-bath brushing is done, gently apply shampoo on your dog's body. After you wash it off, pat dry with a towel.

Extra-care for the Hairless Skin

Apply a sunscreen lotion followed by a moisturizer to keep the skin from drying up. It is always recommended to use pet sunscreen lotion and moisturizers than using what we use.

During the colder weather, put your dog in a dog cloth coat or your old comfy t-shirt to make him warm and comfortable. Keeping them warm in cold weather is a must

Don't forget to regularly trim their nails, eyes and ears as instructed in the earlier chapters.

Dog Breed Chart – Bald/Hairless Dogs

The following list contains the names of few of the Hairless Dog breeds:

- ✓ American Hairless Terrier
- ✓ Chinese Hairless Crested
- ✓ Hairless Khala
- ✓ Mexican Hairless Dog / Xoloitzcuintle
- ✓ Peruvian Inca (Hairless) Orchid (PIO)

Sample Breeds:



American Hairless Terrier



Chinese Hairless Crested



Peruvian Inca (Hairless) Orchid

Special Grooming for the Long-haired Dog

While long-haired dogs are unquestionably the most beautiful looking dogs, their long tresses also make them one of the most difficult to manage. These breeds require regular grooming without fail more than any other breeds to prevent the formation of the dreaded mats.

However, unlike their double-coated cousins these dogs don't blow their coats seasonally.

Brushing

Make no mistake; you need to brush the long-haired dog every day. Here are some of the basic steps you can follow while brushing:

- First remove any mats or tangles that you find using a de-tangle solution or a medium-toothed comb. If this doesn't help then use a mat-spitter or a mat rake.
- Using a slicker brush, brush against the growth of the hair or back brush. Repeat with a medium-toothed comb. Pin brushes can also be used.
- Now brush in the direction of hair growth. If you have a parted-coat breed, then using the comb to define and straighten each part.
- Go over your dog using a flea comb. Part the coat and place the flea comb at the hair roots and pull down slowly. This will take care of fleas as well as the remaining tangles.

Extra-care to Prevent Mats & Tangles

- Brush your dog everyday. You can prevent mats if you don't allow them to form
- Keep your dog away from bushes so that he does not pick up burrs
- A brush before a bath is essential
- A clean coat mats less
- Rinse properly after the bath
- Dry completely after bath
- If your dog isn't a show dog, then keep him in a puppy; it's shorter and manageable

Pre-bath Brushing and Clipping

A pre-bath brushing is a must, however a pre-bath clipping is optional.

Brushing your dog before the bath is necessary as it reduces the chances matting or tangling when you wet his hair. Some groomers recommend a pre-bath clipping since they feel it would get rid of the excess hair or any damaged ends. Also, you will have lesser hair to wash and dry!

Chapter 10 – Grooming a Puppy

Most people think it is not wise to brush or bathe puppies under six months of age.

They fear the puppy might catch cold, or the brushing might prove too rough on the puppy. On the contrary if your puppy comes from a breeder or humane societies it has got dirt or smells bad.

Therefore it becomes necessary to bathe him at once. Before we go into the procedure of grooming it is important to know a few essential facts about grooming.



Why is Grooming a Puppy Essential?

Grooming not only helps to remove dry skin, dirt and the hair coat remains, but also eliminates shed hairs. It also stimulates the sebaceous glands, which is responsible for conditioning of the dog's coat.

The Right Time to Groom Your Puppy

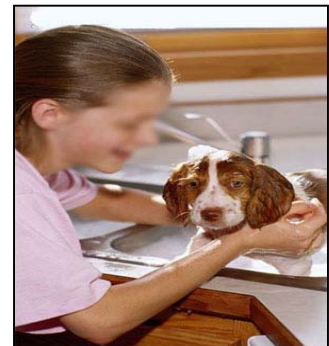
Both longhaired and medium haired puppies should be groomed partially on a regular basis. This is important because puppies learn faster and in the process get habituated to the grooming sessions.

Apart from the regularly scheduled grooming sessions, puppies need to be groomed immediately after their coats get wet. Or else, their coats may become entangled and matted, making the next grooming session difficult.

Bathing Your Puppy

Bathing helps to control the doggie odor by eliminating excessive oil, dander and bacteria. It is also needed in order to prevent dirt related skin infections. Therefore, an average puppy needs to be bathed at least once a week.

For this you can use the new age shampoos meant for puppies and all coat types regularly. Special mild shampoos like the Drs. Foster & Smith Tender Eyes Puppy Shampoo are exclusively prepared for puppies.



Hypoallergenic shampoos are also there for puppies with sensitive skin. Therefore, with the right shampoo you can bathe your puppy as often as required.

- Puppies in general, are quite fond of the bathing sessions.
- Start with brushing or combing the coat to get rid of the dead hair, mats, filth, and burrs.
- Put a small drop of sterile eye ointment in both the eyes to give a protective film.
- Put lukewarm water on the hair coat liberally all the way to the skin.
- Pour shampoo and lather. And after letting the shampoo to stay for five minutes (with supervision) rinse thoroughly.
- If the rinsing is not done properly, retained shampoo will lead to the drying of the hair coat.

Drying Your Puppy

- Dry the puppy with a towel and let him air dry at normal room temperature.
- In case you use a hair dryer set the temperature to a cool setting and not hot or warm.
- If your puppy hates water you can use dry shampoos, which does not require water and brush all through the hair coat.
- Though these shampoos are not as effective as wet baths are, but are helpful to some extent.



Brushing Your Puppy



Brushing is necessary as it cleans the coat, eliminates loose hair, and stimulates the oil glands of the skin.

The "pin and bristle" with metal pins on one side and soft bristles on the opposite side brushes are quite popular among the puppies.

Puppies usually treat brushing as a one of the processes involved in petting. Therefore, if they get used to the process from such young ages, then in the future they will not create much hassle.

Nail Trimming

Puppies have small sharp-edged nails with which they can easily scratch you, your children, the furniture and even themselves. So they need to have their nails trimmed, if not done already, once you bring them home for the first time.

After the initial session of trimming, puppies in general become enough active to keep them worn down for a month to month and a half. After that, examine them and trim their nails following the usual processes.

How to:

Only use nail clippers specially designed for dogs and puppies. Don't use scissors, as they are both harmful and not so effective. Once you get the proper nail clipper hold your pup's paw in one hand, and the cutters in the other.

Position the clippers over the nail and snip only the tip of the nail. Look out for the vein.

If you can't see them clearly, just clip a bit every time. In case you cut the vein by mistake, put a clean gauze pad to stop the bleeding.



Cleaning the ears

The ears of your puppies should be cleaned at least once a month. You can clean it more frequently if he suffers from persistent ear problems.

Examine and smell your dog's ears to see if they smell clean. If you smell something bad clean the ears with a cotton ball and a cleaner meant for the dog's ears.

How to:

Place the earflap upward and clean the ear canal, to remove all dirt and wax out of every folds carefully. Be careful so as not to put in the cotton ball into the ear.



Stay away from cleaning infected ear. If you find your pup's ears looking sensitive, inflamed, smelly, red, swelled up take him to the vet.

You can also clean it with a little water on a Q-Tip. Make sure you clean only the outer area of your pup's ears. Do not put the Q-Tip directly in your dog's ears, or else, you might harm the eardrums.

If you find your pup scratching his ears repeatedly, take a sample of anything you find in the ear and take it to the vet for an examination.

Cleaning the eyes

Many puppy's eyes tend to tear in the inside corners. Therefore every alternate day or two mop the inside corners of the eyes and face softly with a warm, wet cloth.

If your puppy has long hairs, the tears might get accumulated and dry off, resulting to mats near the eyes.

If mats grow, be extra cautious not to poke or harm the eye while removing them. Any heavy discharge in the corner of your puppy's ears calls for your attention.



Cleaning the teeth

Puppies are required to chew when their teeth and jaws are developing for multiple reasons. They cut the baby teeth, enable them to shed at the right time, and aid cut and settles the permanent teeth in the jaws.



In addition to this it facilitates proper development of the jaws. However, make sure they don't chew something harmful. Take your vet's help and advice for proper dental care.

The following three are a must for your pup's dental care:

- Visit your vet on a regular basis for an over all oral examination.
- Following the veterinary dental cleaning processes
- Regular oral care at home

Brush your pup's teeth everyday. Many flossing 'toys' also help to keep your pup's teeth clean. Strong natural bones too are good, but use them periodically as they might wear down the teeth.

Rawhides are also good, but give them only after consulting with your vet. Nylon chews are the most effective and safest of all the chews. They help to massage the gums and clean the teeth.

How to:

Brush only with toothbrush or rubber toothbrush and toothpaste (available in many flavors) meant for dogs. Lift the loose skin of his mouth aside and hold the mouth



open.

Make sure you brush in the direction they develop. If you find it too difficult to brush your dog's teeth, give him a dog biscuit that will keep the tartar off your pup's teeth.

Regular dental checkups and cleanings are a must for your dogs. Regular maintenance and preventive measures are absolutely necessary for healthy teeth and gums.

Therefore grooming your dog from nose to tail from an early stage is absolutely necessary to keep him healthy, fit and fine. Healthy puppies are happy puppies that eventually develop to a healthy dog.

Chapter 11 – Better Diet Leads To Better Dog Pelt

Importance of Good Nutrition

Why does the quality of food make a difference to your pet's health?



Simply put, food is fuel for our bodies and we will cease to exist without it. The strength of your pet's immune system, his ability to fight disease and infection and his quality of life depends on the food he consumes.

Moreover, just like us, our pets can never look or feel good if they are not eating a proper diet. Therefore, your pet has specific diet requirements and it is entirely up to you to provide your pooch with a diet that will enable him to lead a long and healthy life.

The key nutrients in a diet are:

- Fats
- Proteins
- Carbohydrates
- Vitamins and minerals

And more importantly, these must be present in correct amounts and proportions for a diet to be nutritionally complete and balanced.

Although theories and myths abound about what comprises a proper diet for your pet, it would be safe to follow the guidelines laid down by the Association of Animal Feed Control Officials (AAFCO).

This association comprises of government officials, veterinarians and pet food manufacturers and they are constantly researching and testing foods that help to improve the health of dogs.

Whatever food you may be feeding your pet; homemade or commercial notwithstanding, it is advisable to stick to the AAFCO standards. Deviating too much from the norms would result in causing serious damage to your pet's health. Always consult your vet before making any drastic changes in your pooch's diet.

Appropriate Feeding for a Shiny & Glossy Coat

A bright shiny coat is a sign of vigor and good health and we want our pets to look and feel their best. No matter what breed of dog you have, coat type, or color, the first essential for good skin and coat appearance is proper nutrition.

The proper balance of protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals is crucial. Even if they seem to be more economical, generic brand or store label pet foods are often not made from the quality ingredients your pet needs to stay healthy. Talk to your veterinarian about pet food recommendations; everyone has his favorites and there are many quality brands.

If you are formulating your own home made diet, be sure you have the proper balance of nutrients.

Nutrients such as protein, fat, vitamins and minerals play important roles in the skin and coat health of dogs. The purpose of skin and hair is to prevent things from leaving (such as water or heat) or entering (such as viruses and bacteria) the body.

Your dog's coat is made up almost entirely of protein. If his doesn't have enough protein quantity and quality, hair may fall out or become dry, weak and brittle. His skin is made up of flat cells tightly packed together. These cells have tough membranes made of proteins and fats.

Without proper amounts of these nutrients, cell membranes weaken, allowing water to escape and bacteria and viruses to enter more easily.

If you are feeding your pet commercial dog food then look for a premium brand. Cheap bargain brands are primarily grain-based and contain fillers that your dog doesn't need and therefore is unable to digest.

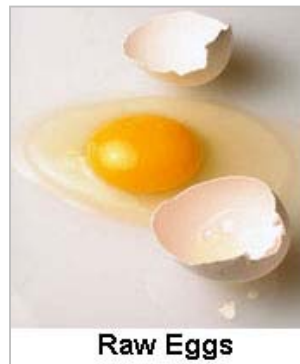
Hence, look for a premium dog food that has meat as its main ingredient. You must remember that dogs do not absorb and digest plant protein sources as well as they do meat sources. Moreover, fillers and grains don't make beautiful coats but fats and proteins do.

Although dogs can and do survive on vegetarian diets, they are basically carnivores. So unless your dog is truly allergic to animal products, keeping him on a vegetarian diet is an absolute no-no.

Nutritional Supplements

If you are feeding your pet on premium commercial food then it's highly unlikely that you might need additional supplements to improve his skin or coat. However, if such a need does arise then there are plenty of supplements you can choose from:

- **Omega 3 fatty acids:** found in fish oils & flaxseed. Limit intake to 5% of your dog's total fat intake.
- **Omega 6 fatty acids:** found in meat and vegetable fats.
- **Raw egg:** One raw egg daily



Chapter 12 – Dealing with the Challenges of Clipping

Clipping, without doubt, is one the most challenging task for a pet owner. Generally, breeds that need to be clipped have a single coat. Their hair grows long and they don't shed much, as a result they can look a terrible mess if their coats are not clipped regularly.

Sometimes, dogs are clipped for style or show purposes; or simply because the pet owner prefers the ease of maintaining a clipped dog.

Tools Required

1. **Clippers**

A great variety of electric clippers and blades are available in the market and the kind of clippers you buy will depend on your clipping needs. If you need them only to clean up a few hairs, then a set of home clippers is all you need.

However, if you want to maintain a nice show coat, then go for medium-priced clippers with which you can use different blades.

2. **Blade**

Some clippers come with blades some don't. Choosing the correct blade depends on your dog's breed and coat-type. You can talk to other owners of your breed or find out from the breed standard

3. **Guide comb**

These are plastic combs that you attach to electric clippers to get an even cut. So if you use a half-inch guide comb, you will get a half-inch cut.

4. **Scissors**

If you just cannot trim your dog's coat with clippers, then use scissors or shears. But you need to exercise tremendous caution when you use them as they can injure you and your dog.

Remember:

- Choose shears that are made for dogs and are sharp
- Go slowly while using them
- For extra precaution, keep your finger between the scissors and your dog's skin
- Keep off all distractions

Safety while using clippers:

- Ensure clipper blades are sharp
- Choose the blade that is suitable to your dog's coat type. If you are not sure of the about the cut of the blade, then it's better to use a guide comb which will help you to have a uniform cut.
- Don't forget to use a clipper coolant or lubricant on the blade so that it doesn't get too warm and burn your dog

Attempting your first pet cut

If you don't intend to show your dog in a competition, then it's best to clip your dog in a manageable cut; often referred to as **a pet cut, a puppy cut, a teddy bear cut**. Follow these steps to give you dog a pet cut:

- Use clippers with size 30 or 40 blade along with a guide comb to set the length at which you want to trim your dog's hair
- Go over the full coat trimming it to the desirable length
- After removing the guide comb trim the ears with size 10 or 15 blade
- Using the same blade gently trim the area around the anus and the genitals to keep it clean

Chapter 13 – Dog Shedding

What is shedding?

Dog shedding occurs in all dogs and is a natural process of getting rid of (eliminating) dead hair. Basically, shedding takes place for two reasons: firstly, to allow a new coat to come in, and secondly, to help the dog to adapt to the seasonal changes in the temperature.

The rate of dog shedding depends on the growth rate of hair, which is based on genetics, nutrition and environment. A non-shedding dog is a myth, but in some dogs the process occurs so slowly that it may go unnoticed. Moreover, longhaired dogs may appear to shed more, but it is actually the length of their hair that creates that illusion.

The Shedding Season

Shedding in Outdoor & Indoor Dogs

Shedding typically occurs every spring and fall season, relating primarily to changes in the intensity and duration of sunlight cycles. Some dogs — particularly hard-coated terriers and Poodles — hang on to their dead hair, thus requiring special grooming to remove it.

Other dogs give it up quite readily, all over the house. Double-coated dogs generally drop their soft undercoats twice a year and lose their guard hairs once a year, although some individual dogs might shed constantly or only every 10-12 months.

Shedding can take anywhere from three weeks to two months. A warm bath helps accelerate the process and daily (or twice-daily) brushing can help control clouds of hair that scurry into corners and under furniture.

Pets that live mostly in an outside environment tend to "blow their coats" twice yearly, according to the natural sunlight schedules they are exposed to. Pets that live most of their lives indoors are exposed to artificial light, which alters this natural shedding cycle, causing the pet to shed excessively.

(Blowing coat is a term that describes the heavy shedding that takes place twice a year, once in the spring time and another in the fall.)

Most dogs under indoor conditions usually go through at least one major shedding cycle each year, depending upon the breed. Here is the general rule: if the dog requires regular maintenance haircuts, it most likely will not shed excessively.

Dogs with shorter hair that require brushing rather than haircuts, usually have double coats and thus tend to shed much more.

The Basic Difference Between Shedding & Coat loss

A number of dog owners often get confused between a natural hair loss and shedding.

Coat loss is much different than shedding as it is not a natural occurrence. The result is the same, but actual coat loss can be caused by many different factors. Older pets generally have poor coat quality as their digestive systems don't function as well as they once did.

The same is true for pets that have been ill for any length of time, or have been exposed to a significantly stressful situation, or change of ownership, etc. In situations like these, it's best to get your pet examined by a vet in order to rule out any serious health problems.

Studies have also shown that dogs that have been under anesthesia for an extended period of time usually blow their coats within two months.

Females that have had puppies tend to lose their coats soon after as well. Most of these situations are repairable, and the coat will return to normal after the pet has returned to good health.

Pet owners seeking a solution to alleviate excessive shedding need to evaluate the brand of dog food they feed. If a dog is being fed poor quality food, the dog's body will utilize what little nutritional value the food has for energy to maintain bodily functions, and therefore the quality of its coat decreases.

In most cases, good quality dog food is usually the cheapest, easiest way to reduce the excessive hair loss. Talk to your vet about choosing a premium dog food that is best for your pet's individual health and well being.

Among the factors influencing dog shedding are temperature fluctuations and the amount of time your dog spends in the sun. Some breeds have a seasonal shedding season in the spring, as their winter coats are lost.

But if your dog is an indoor dog then, he may not have been outside enough for the dog's body to register the change of season, so he may shed all year round. Hence, dog shedding among indoor dogs remains fairly constant all year long.

Dog shedding among outdoor dogs occurs more rapidly with the onset of warm weather. Dog shedding may vary as a dog ages, or becomes ill.

Difference Between Normal Shedding & Excessive Shedding

How Much Shedding is Too Much

Dog owners often make a mistake when it comes to normal shedding and excessive shedding. They often misunderstand the two and as a result the dog suffers.

Normally most breeds will shed seasonally. And you shouldn't make any effort to thwart the process. Many dog breeds possess a "double coat" which is nothing but two layers of coat called a topcoat (long "guard hairs") and an undercoat (a layer of thick, downy fuzz next to their skin under the guard hairs).

The undercoat acts as an insulator and grows thick during winters so that they shed and be discarded during spring and summer.

Generally the male dogs only shed heavily in spring and summer. But the females frequently shed at the time of their estrus or heat cycle also. However, the males have splendid and better quality coats than their female counterparts.

Puppies of almost every breed shed too before their adult double coat grow. Puppies between the ages of six months to twelve months go through quite a difficult time. At this stage as their hairs get tangled and matted as their fuzzy hair falls out.

In the process they get tangled in the matured guard hairs in the inner aspect. To ease the situation you need to brush frequently.

The moment you notice the first signs of shedding you should trim the hair very short besides brushing frequently. You should go over the process throughout the summer if you notice more hair.

What is Excessive Shedding?

Any breed can go through excessive shedding due to both nutritional and environmental causes. In cold places they tend to shed more and their skins dry off more because people turn the heat on in cold months. In such cases a humidifier or placing a bowl of water over the heat vent will be of help.

Again many dogs stay outside for a long time. They receive good amount of sunlight resulting into shedding mostly during spring, as days get longer. Again in fall due to less sunlight and cooler temperatures shedding occurs as their dense winter hair grows in.

But dogs that keep mostly indoors shed all through the year due to the lack of sunlight and presence of artificial light.

Hormones too are responsible for excessive shedding. Once the females go through a heat cycle they tend to drop off the coat. In addition to this the dog's coat alters a lot due to spaying and neutering. This causes more shedding resulting them sprout fuzz often.

Signs of excessive shedding – When your dog is shedding more than it had in the past or has a thin hair coat or has bald spots, it calls for a health condition that needs to be treated. Take him to the vet without further delay.

However, in order to reduce unhealthy shedding, you should keep your dog's skin supple and damp. This helps the skin to hold the guard hairs firmly in the pores. This calls for you to include in his diet, food items that contain fatty acids to keep the skin oily.

Do not remove the oil from his skin or hair using chemical borne rough washing products.

About Non-Shedding Dogs

Non-shedding dogs, or hypoallergenic dogs tend to provoke fewer allergies, and are hence suitable for persons who are allergic to dog hair or don't want their house, clothes and furniture to be covered with dog hair. The term non-shedding dogs are actually something of a misnomer.

Though some dogs are often referred to as non-shedding, they may shed a little bit in cycles, or they may shed if they have skin or flea allergies. Non-shedding dogs will generally shed more if fleas have infested them. This makes flea control very crucial.

While looking for non-shedding or low shedding dogs, a few important considerations should be kept in mind. Most dogs with wiry, very curly or stiff hair are prone to shed very little, and so, require less coat care.

Many dogs with multi-layered coats, like standard sheepdogs are also not likely to shed much. Finer haired dogs tend to shed much more than dogs with thick or coarse hair.

Even after you get a non-shedding dog, do not be surprised by the occasional shed. Some do this every spring or in early summer, and shed a slightly thicker winter coat. Poor coat care, and especially letting mats form in the hair can lead to more shedding.

However, if you truly allergic to dogs, even hypoallergenic or non-shedding dogs may cause you problems. Most people are likely to be allergic to the dander (or flakes of skin) from the pet and not the hair.

It would be a good idea to spend a couple of days with a dog and actually test if you can stand the dander/ hair before committing yourself to purchasing or adopting a dog.

All About Brushing – Control/Reduce Shedding

Surveys suggest that shedding can be one of the most annoying features of dog owning. Routine dog shedding, while a sign of good health in a dog, can be a pain for you. Dog shedding results in dog hair on your clothes, drapes, floor and furniture. It's everywhere. So what can you do to reduce dog shedding—or at least control it?

Brushing your dog is the single most important key to reduce dog shedding. Regular brushing with a slicker brush is the best way to keep the loose hair from falling on the floor or your furniture. Once a week try to sit down and do a thorough brushing session.

Any dog owner cannot ignore the advantages yielded by regular brushing. Brushing mimics the natural conditions the dogs faced in the wild when trees and bushes would catch their loose hair thereby removing them from their coat.

It provides bonding time. In the wild, wolves and other canines groom each other as part of the social interaction of the pack or family group.

Dog incisors (the front teeth) are an effective comb; the little nibbles they etch on the bodies of pack mates stimulate the skin and have a calming effect. More importantly, brushing stimulates blood supply to the skin and thereby helps in controlling formation of mats and parasitic infestations such as fleas, mites and ticks.

Finally, it is better to brush off all the loose hair and have them fall in one place, instead of having to clean them from the floor, clothes and furniture!

Good grooming habits begin with puppy care. All puppies should be taught to sit, stand, or lie down to have their bodies checked over and their hair combed. Puppy owners can also use grooming as pleasurable time with their new family member.

Different coat types have different grooming requirements. We have tried to briefly describe these below:

- **Short-coated dogs** are easiest to care and need brushing two to three times a week using a brush with medium soft bristles. However, short-coated dogs with a thick undercoat would need the undercoat to be thinned occasionally.

Getting rid of the dead hair using a rake or a knife would prevent mats from forming.

Some breeds, like the Alaskan Malamutes and German Shepherds, have such luxuriant undercoats that they require frequent grooming to prevent these mats from forming in sensitive areas.

- With **medium-coated dogs**, like the golden retriever, we need a firmer bristle brush. Don't forget to brush the feathering on the legs and the chest.
- Dogs with **long coats**, such as collies and Afghans, need special attention. Their coats need to be brushed several times a week to prevent the formation of tangles and mats. Use a soft bristle brush followed by a wide-toothed comb. Brushing followed by combing helps to keep the coat smooth and shiny.

Longhaired dogs with double coats need to be tended in the same way as short-coated dogs with an undercoat. You will need a stiff, long bristle brush that can reach the thick undercoat.

Brush twice a week at least. Single-coated longhaired dogs should not be brushed when their coats are dry. Spray the coat with either water or moisturizer before brushing. This prevents the coat from tearing or breaking.

- **Wire-coated** dogs have unique grooming requirements. Your first reaction on seeing a wired coat would be to either shave it off or clip it. Although clipping will certainly make your dog look better, it will destroy the protective shield that this kind of a coat lends.

The method of brushing this type of coat is called "stripping" in which the excess dead hair are plucked from the dog's coat. And as these hair are loose, removing them does not cause the dog any pain.

Stripping maintains a proper wire coat, while clipping makes it soft and ruins the texture. It grows thicker and soft and often the color will change.

- **Corded coats** are impossible to comb or brush. The cords that comprise this kind of a coat are actually specialized mats that create a weather-resistant shield. Dogs with corded coats require occasional baths to keep their coats clean and fresh smelling. These coats take hours to dry after the bath.
- **Coatless dogs** have no hair at all. But that does not mean that they don't need proper care and maintenance. They need regular baths and moisturizer for their skins. When going out in the sun they need sun protection.

Tips to Deal With Shedding

A dog that sheds a lot can be a major problem. When you have guests, there is a good chance that you do not want them to see how much your dog sheds. If you have a child who is allergic to dog hair, then shedding can be a major problem and clean-up is necessary.

Luckily, there are a number of easy things that you can do in order to eliminate dog hair in the home and prevent it from building up in the first place.

1) **Follow a proper grooming schedule:**

Make sure you bathe your dog regularly and shave off excess hair if you feel that it may control shedding. You should also make sure that you brush off all the loose hair before he drops it everywhere in the house.

By sticking to a proper grooming schedule you will not only be able to keep your house free from dog hair but also be able to control shedding.

2) **Designate areas in the house for your dog:**

Invest in a good dog bed and / or a crate for your dog. This will help to keep him off your bed and furniture. Also all the dog hair will be restricted to his bed/ crate thereby making it easier to clean.

3) **Choose an appropriate color for your upholstery:**

If you have a dark-haired dog, opt for upholstery in a dark shade. This will disguise the dog hair and you won't have to vacuum often.

4) **Vacuum several times in a week:**

If your dog sheds heavily, then you need to vacuum your house frequently to keep it clean. Though it's an arduous task but an essential one.

5) **Use lint rollers on clothing and furniture:**

You can remove dog hair from furniture and clothing by using lint rollers. As simple as it sounds, it does require a lot of patience and time. However, it is not advisable to use lint rollers on leather furniture.

6) **Feed your dog a food fortified with omega 3 fatty acids:**

Omega 3 fatty acids can help keep your dog's skin and coat healthy, which can reduce the amount of shedding you'll experience on your floors and furniture.

If you can't find a high quality dog food that has added omega 3 fatty acids, consider buying an omega 3 fatty acid supplement to give your dog daily.

Dog Breed Chart on Shedding

Dogs That Are Light Shedder

There is no such thing as a "totally" non-shedding dog. Like humans, all dogs shed at least a little hair at one time or another. However, there are dogs that shed little to no hair.

The following is a list consisting of breeds that shed little to no hair:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Affenpinscher | Airedale Terrier | Australian Terrier | American Hairless Terrier |
| Basenji | Bedlington Terrier | Belgian Shepherd Laekenois | Bergamasco |
| Bichon Frise | Bolognese | Border Terrier | Bouvier des Flanders |
| Brussels Griffon | Cairn Terrier | Cesky Terrier | Chacy Ranior |
| Chinese Crested (Hairless) | Chi-Poo | Cockapoo | Coton De Tulear |
| Dandie Dinmont Terrier | Doodleman Pinscher | Giant Schnauzer | Glen of Imaal Terrier |
| Hairless Khala | Havanese | Irish Terrier | Irish Water Spaniel |
| Italian Greyhound | Kerry Blue Terrier | Komondor | Labradoodle |
| Lagotto Romagnolo | Lakeland Terrier | Lowchen | Maltese |
| Malti-Poo | Manchester Terrier | Mi-Ki | Miniature Poodle |
| Miniature Schnauzer | Norfolk Terrier | Norwich Terrier | Peruvian Inca Orchid |
| Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen | Poodle | Portuguese Water Dog | Puli |
| Schnoodle | Scottish Terrier (Scottie) | Sealyham Terrier | Shepadoodle |
| Shichon | Shih Tzu | Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier | Spanish Water Dog |
| Standard Poodle | Standard Schnauzer | Tibetan Terrier | Toy Poodle |
| Welsh Terrier | West Highland White Terrier | Wire-haired Fox Terrier | Wirehaired Pointing Griffon |
| Xoloitzcuintli (Mexican Hairless) | Yorkshire Terrier | | |

Dogs That Are Medium/Average Shedder

Medium shedders are those dogs that shed average amount of hair or light constant shedders.

The following is a list of average shedders:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Akbash Dog | Afghan Hound | African Boerboel | Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog |
| Alaskan Klee Kai | American Bandogge Mastiff | American Mastiff | American Pit Bull Terrier |
| American Cocker Spaniel | American Eskimo | American Staffordshire Terrier | American Foxhound |
| American Bulldog | Australian Shepherd | Australian Koolie | Australian Kelpie |
| Arabian Greyhound | Bearded Collie | Beauceron | Bull Terrier |
| Beagle | Boston Terrier | Boxer | Border Collie |
| Bull Boxer | Banter Bulldogge | Bloodhound | Canary Dog |
| Chinook | Chihuahua | Chesapeake Bay Retriever | Cavalier King Charles Spaniel |
| Curly-Coated Retriever | Croatian Sheepdog | Dogue de Bordeaux | Dogo Argentino |
| Doberman Pinscher | Dachshund | English Coonhound | English Bulldog |
| English Cocker Spaniel | English Springer Spaniel | English Setter | English Foxhound |
| English Toy Spaniel | Estonian Hound | Flat-Coated Retriever | Finnish Hound |
| French Bulldog | Giant Maso Mastiff | German Shorthaired Pointer | German Wirehaired Pointer |
| German Pinscher | Great Dane | Greater Swiss Mountain Dog | Golden Retriever |
| Greyhound | Gordon Setter | Hovawart | Ibizan Hound |
| Irish Setter | Irish Red and White Setter | Irish Wolfhound | Japanese Spaniel, Japanese Chin |
| Labrador Retriever | Lhasa Apso | Manchester Terrier | Miniature Pinscher |
| Miniature Australian Shepherd | Miniature Australian Bulldog | Mastiff, English Mastiff, Old English Mastiff | Mudi |
| Neapolitan Mastiff | Nova Scotia Duck-Tolling Retriever | New Zealand Huntaway | Olde Victorian Bulldogge |
| Olde English Bulldogge | Olde Boston Bulldogge | Otterhound | Pocket Beagle |
| Pekingese | Papillon | Podengo Portugueso Medio | Pharaoh Hound |
| Pointer | Russian Spaniel | Russian Toy Terrier | Rhodesian Ridgeback |
| Rottweiler | Saluki | Sussex Spaniel | Skye Terrier |
| Scottish Deerhound | Smooth Fox Terrier | Tibetan Spaniel | Victorian Bulldog |
| Valley Bulldog | Vizsla | Welsh Springer Spaniel | Weimaraner |
| Whippet | | Wirehaired Vizsla | |

Dogs That Are Heavy Shedder

There are two types of shedding:

- Seasonal Shedding
- Constant Shedding

Seasonal Shedding

Also known as the blowing of the coat is a term that describes the heavy seasonal shedding that takes place twice a year, once in the springtime and another in the fall.

The following Dogs are Seasonal Sheddors who sheds once or twice a year:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alaskan Malamute | Anatolian Shepherd | Bernese Mountain Dog | Belgian Shepherd |
| Belgian Tervuren | Belgian Malinois | Borzoi | Collie (Rough and Smooth) |
| | Canaan Dog | Chow Chow | Danish Broholmer |
| Finnish Spitz | Great Pyrenees | Kangal Dog | Leonberger |
| Large Munsterlander | Newfoundland | Norwegian Elkhound | Norwegian Buhund |
| Old English Sheepdog | Pug | Samoyed | Shetland Sheepdog (Sheltie) |
| Shiba Inu | Shiloh | Siberian Husky | Spanish Mastiff |
| Tibetan Mastiff | | | |

Constant Shedder

Many dogs shed all year round – it's actually possible. Year-round dog shedding typically occurs with indoor dogs as they have a bit more insulation from the extreme temperature that take place outside. You might notice your rugs, sofa, beds or curtains littered with dog hair all the time.

The following Dogs are Constant Sheddors who sheds all-through-the-year:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| American White Shepherd | Basset Hound | Clumber Spaniel | Dalmatian |
| German Shepherd Dog | Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog | Lurcher | Pomeranian |

Myths/Misconceptions About Grooming & Shedding

- **Dogs are cooler in the summer if their coats are shaved off**

Shaving a dog off in the summer will not cool them off. It is important to know that that dogs dilate the blood vessels in the skin to exchange the warmth of the blood with the cooler surface skin.

That's why short-coated dogs and dogs with single coats frequently suffer more in the heat - they don't have the layer of insulating coat between the skin and air that double-coated dogs have.

It is important that double-coated dogs **should never be shaved off in the summer.** They do need to be bathed and have the dead coat removed to allow for proper allowance of heat exchange.

- **Dogs grow more coat in the Winter**

Your dogs coat growth is triggered by sunlight, not temperature

- **Frequent bathing is bad for a dog's skin and/or fur**

This myth has been around for a long time. It may be true when using poor quality or human shampoos. But regular bathing with quality, appropriate shampoo, is good for dogs.

- **Longhaired dogs shed more than shorthaired dogs**

The truth is often actually the opposite. Some longhaired breeds do not shed a lot. Or, they may only significantly shed briefly in spring and fall.

However, many breeds with short and medium coats tend to shed heavily all year long, or at least much of it. These include: the Labrador Retriever, Rottweiler, German Shepherd, and Corgi.

- **Shaving a dog will reduce or prevent shedding**

A shaved dog will not shed less than an unshaved dog. The hair that comes out will simply be shorter.

Chapter 14 – First Aid Tips While Grooming Your Dog

Accidents with your dog can happen anytime. To some extent you can avoid them but there are times when they inevitably occur. In these situations if you keep your first-aid kit ready and handy you can save yourself and your dog from a lot of pain and trouble.

Make Your Dog's First-Aid-Kit

Ideally a dog's FIRST-AID-KIT should comprise of the following items most of which are easily available in any local drugstore.

- A muzzle
- Aspirin
- Large and small nonstick bandages and bandage scissors and tape
- Sterile gauze wrappings and sponges
- Pressure bandages
- Betadine antiseptic solution
- Forceps or tweezers
- Blood-clotting gel or powder (cut-stop gel) or styptic powder
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Triple antibiotic ointment (without benzocaine or lidocaine)
- Electronic ear thermometer for dogs or an electronic rectal thermometer
- Petroleum jelly (Vaseline)
- Cortisone cream
- Disposable latex gloves
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Syrup of ipecac
- Kaolin product for dogs
- Mineral oil or activated charcoal
- Unflavored pediatric electrolyte (Pedialyte)

Why Do You Need a Grooming First-Aid Kit?

Why take chances when you can prevent an accident?

Cuts & Nicks

The first thing you should do whenever your dog gets a cut or a nick is to take him to the vet for proper stitching. Once the stitching is done inspect the affected area carefully.

If you still see a substantial amount of hair, remove them carefully with a guarded clipper from around the cut. In case it bleeds, use cut-stop gel or styptic powder. Apply a solution of 10 percent Betadine antiseptic and 90 percent water to clean the wounds followed by an antibiotic ointment.

Wrap the affected area with sterile pad and self-adhesive bandages. Don't put the tape directly on the fur; wrap it only around the bandage. Change the bandage regularly and if there is any sign of infection take him to the vet without any delay.

Skin irritation

It may often happen that your dog suffers from skin irritation due to some particular product you use on it or even the clippers. If your dog undergoes a clipper burn, aloe vera acts as an instant reliever. Or else, you can use a clipper coolant (it cools down the clipper blades quickly) before using it on your dog to avoid clipper burn.

If you see your dog is allergic to any specific product, bathe him with hypoallergenic shampoo and conditioner. Over-the-counter cortisone-type cream can also be applied on the irritated area. But if none of the above methods work, do not hesitate to take your dog to the vet.

Allergic Reaction

Anaphylactic reaction is most severe of all other types of allergies. It starts with hives or swelling of the face, or even with itching or redness of the skin followed by agitation, diarrhea, vomiting and difficulty in breathing. Apart from this other types of allergies include redness or itching of the skin.

Whenever you detect allergy in your dog you should immediately eliminate most of the offending substance, provided your dog does not suffer from respiratory distress. Consult your vet before applying antihistamine. If it is a less serious reaction, Benadryl can be used. Under any circumstances you should take your dog to the vet at once.

Dehydration

Usually dehydration occurs due to insufficient water intake. If your dog's gum becomes dry and sticky then most likely it is suffering from dehydration. You can also detect dehydration with the skin-snap test (consult the vet before going for the test).

Giving your dog sufficient water and pediatric electrolyte beverage are good enough for mild forms of dehydration. However, if it gets serious like, your dog refuses to drink water, immediately take him to the vet for intravenous fluid and care.

Hypothermia

In hypothermia, a dog suffers from a below average body temperature. Dogs are more susceptible to hypothermia in winter, if washed and left outside or in a soggy area. The usual symptoms are shivering and listlessness, resulting to unconsciousness, coma, and ultimately leading to death. In order to avoid such fatal consequences, dry your dog and his coats properly.

In case your dog shivers shift him to a warmer place, cover him with a blanket and give him warm broth to drink. If he becomes unconscious, performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is of immense help. But under any circumstances take him to the vet for proper treatment.

Dog bites

Dogs often get into fight with each other, and end up hurting themselves. In such cases you should check them carefully for any wounds. If the injury seems serious take him to the vet. In order to clean puncture wounds also, you need to seek the vet's help.

Chapter 15 – Choosing a High or Low Maintenance Dog

Grooming a dog can be both fun and a dreadful experience. It depends on your tolerance level as well as the breed you go for. Before choosing a dog you should consider all the pros and cons. Below are discussed both high maintenance and low maintenance dogs which will give you some idea before you decide on one.

High Maintenance Dogs

The dogs having longhairs or thick and curly coat need good amount of brushing and combing everyday. Bathing the hairy pelt with good pet shampoo is necessary to keep away breeding of hidden ticks and mites.

Some dog owners prefer to keep the fur long while others clip the furs after every 8 weeks. However, to make these dogs look and feel healthy, clipping or combing away the bad mats is important.

For dogs with long coats, the hair around the eyes should be trimmed properly for better vision – as this is a major part of eye care. Also fur present in-between the pads, near the ears, and around the bottom needs close trimming.

The dead hairs need to be plucked out of the ears every week and the nails need to be trimmed each month. Some even needs stripping of the coat once or twice a year.

The following list consists the names of few of the dog breeds that require high maintenance:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Airedale Terrier | ✓ Pyrenean Shepherd |
| ✓ Bichon Frise | ✓ Poodle (Toy/Standard/Miniature) |
| ✓ Cavalier King Charles Spaniel | ✓ Saint Bernard |
| ✓ Chinese Crested | ✓ Samoyed |
| ✓ English Springer Spaniel | ✓ Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier |
| ✓ Irish Setter | ✓ Schnauzer |
| ✓ Maltese | (Giant/Standard/Miniature) |
| ✓ Newfoundland | ✓ Schipperke |
| ✓ Old English Sheepdog | ✓ Scottish Terrier |
| ✓ Pekingese | ✓ Silky Terrier |
| ✓ Portuguese Water Dog | ✓ Skye Terrier |
| | ✓ Yorkshire Terrier |

Low Maintenance Dogs

Such dogs need limited attention where grooming is concerned since they have average-to-groom coats. Brushing is required only to keep the pelt in good condition.

These dogs are generally low maintenance breeds. Bathing is strictly when required. Some dogs might have long coats but should never be clipped, like for example Affenpinscher. Also these breeds are mostly non-shedders.

However, even they require regular cleaning of the eyes and ears to avoid fungal infections.

The following list consists the names of few of the dog breeds that require low maintenance:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ✓ Akita | ✓ Greyhound |
| ✓ Affenpinscher | ✓ Great Dane |
| ✓ Alaskan Malamute | ✓ Ibizan Hound |
| ✓ Australian Shepherd | ✓ Italian Greyhound |
| ✓ Australian Cattle Dog | ✓ Labrador Retriever |
| ✓ Australian Terrier | ✓ Miniature Pinscher |
| ✓ Beagle | ✓ Mastiff |
| ✓ Dalmatian | ✓ Papillon |
| ✓ Boxer | ✓ Rottweiler |
| ✓ Bulldog | ✓ Shiba Inu |
| ✓ Chihuahua | ✓ Whippet |
| ✓ English Toy Spaniel | ✓ Wire Fox Terrier |

Chapter 16 – Home-made Natural Grooming Products

Conveniently Made At Home Products for Best Results

It goes without saying that any natural remedy is preferred more than the synthetic ones. First, they have no or less chances of side effects. Second, they are easily available at home. And third they save a lot of money.

In this article you will find some of the best homemade recipes for dog coat conditioners, dog shampoos, dog toothpastes and many others that are both effective and inexpensive.

Homemade Recipes for Dog Coat Conditioners

It is often found that the coats of longhaired breeds get tangled while in other breeds the hairs become damaged, matted as well as tangled. You can easily solve these problems with few homemade recipes, which act as coat conditioners.



In order to take care of dry and damaged hair, beat an egg yolk vigorously with water to make it creamy. Now put the white of the egg in the creamy yolk and mix them well. Next wet your dog's coat with lukewarm water.

Get rid of the excess water. Spread the mixture all over the dog's coat and massage gently until the foam sinks deep into the skin. After this rinse thoroughly and pour warm water to wash away the mixture.

To pull out burrs from the dog's coat, first pluck out the hairs around the burr with a sewing seam ripper. This way the burr will come out without much hassle.

You can also use an oily conditioner to keep the coat glossy and slippery so that the burrs get easily brushed off in case they reoccur.

To control your dog's long hairs from getting matted and tangled rinse them with a gentle conditioner when you bathe him. Short and upward and downward strokes will cut an inflexible matted area into smaller ones. Conditioners with oil will loosen the knots, making brushing easier.

Pet skins are very sensitive and get easily affected by allergies and eczema. You can easily cure mild allergies like canine acne and dandruff with homemade pastes and solutions. Vinegar is quite effective to clear off dandruff.

All you need to do is massage your dog's coat with vinegar and let it dry off for sometime. Then wash off the vinegar with warm water.

Homemade Recipe for Dog Shampoo

Preparing a dog shampoo at home is not that big a deal. You only need a few things.

- A shampoo or squeeze bottle as containers
- Clear liquid antibacterial soap. Dial is preferred but can use generic ones as well generic.
- White vinegar.

Pour equal parts of vinegar and soap in a container and mix and shake well. Your shampoo is ready to be applied on your dog in about three minutes. The vinegar helps to get rid of the wet doggie odor and remove any residue on your dog's coat.

On the other hand, the antibacterial side of the mixture helps to remove any parasite, dirt, and skin abrasions and scratchy or peeled skin.

Homemade Recipe for Dog Toothpaste

To prepare toothpaste to control bad breath you need:

- Baking soda
- Your dog's own toothbrush
- Washcloth.
- Bowl of water



Baking Soda

Hold your dog in the correct position. Then first dip his toothbrush in water and then in baking soda. Next brush quickly as the dogs are not very fond of it. After brushing give them something to drink. Wipe off his mouth with a cloth and your dog has a fresh breath now.

Homemade Solution for Cleaning Ears

In order to clean your dog's ears you need:

- White vinegar
- Powdered boric acid
- Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
- Betadine antiseptic.
- A plastic bottle container, which has a long applicator snout, and markings on the outside to show solution levels in ounces.



White Vinegar

Mix 6 ounces of and ½ tablespoon of boric acid powder in the container. Shake well to fully dissolve the boric acid. After that add 2 ounces of white vinegar to it. Shake again.

Lastly, add one teaspoon of the generic Betadine antiseptic. Again shake vigorously. You will find the solution takes on the color of iced tea. The solution is now ready.

Homemade Recipes to Get Rid of the Tearstains

- Mix equal parts of boric powder and baby powder with Milk of Magnesia to make a paste. Apply the mixture with a soft brush to the affected area. Let it dry for some time and then brush it off. In case of stubborn stains a few drop of 10% peroxide in the mixture is quite helpful.
- Mix cornstarch and peroxide to a paste. Apply it using a toothbrush. Let it dry off overnight. In the morning wash it using warm water or peroxide.
- Optrex Eye Wash – Take cotton pads soaked in Optrex (contains Boric Acid and Witch Hazel) to clean near the eyes.
- Take a paste of cornstarch and Boracic Acid Powder. Massage with care all through the hair. Be careful so that the mixture does not come in contact with the eyes or mouth. The powder helps to bleach the white whilst and fades away the stains.
- Make a paste of one tablespoon of Boracic Acid and boiling water and let it cool off. Put quite a few cotton balls in a plastic container. Pour the cooled mixture in the container and seal it. You can use one ball everyday in order to clean the tear and face stains. Do not use the same mixture for more than one week. Make new mixture every week.
- Take equal parts of Cornstarch, Boracic Acid and enough water and make a paste. Apply the mixture to the affected area, avoiding eyes, and let it dry off. Then brush and wipe off using a clean cloth.
- To thwart yeast and bacterial formation put one tablespoon of white vinegar in your dog's drinking water to alter the pH.



Boric Powder

These homemade recipes often work better than the local drug store ones. Plus these are cheap and easily made at home.

Chapter 17 – Twelve Vital Dog Grooming Issues Answered

There are few issues that every dog owner should know in details.

Given below are 12 vital issues on Dog Grooming:

Issue #1 – Dealing with Stickers, Burrs & Grass Awns

Dogs are playful by nature. In the process stickers, burrs, grass awns and other sticky and prickly substances get caught in the dog fur. It is very important that you get rid of these sticky substances at once to avoid a further mess or damage to the dog.

However, before you learn about how to eliminate the sticky substances from your dog you need to keep a number of selected items like baking soda, medium- and fine-toothed combs, cornstarch, paper towels, detangler solution, pH-balanced dog shampoo and dog conditioner, electric clippers, rubber gloves, grease-cutting dishwashing liquid, tweezers or forceps, hydrogen peroxide, vegetable oil and mat rake and splitter handy.

Methods to eliminate stinky and sticky stuff

Sticker Burrs

The easiest solution to this is to keep your dog away from the dense brush. But if your dog already comes home with burrs inspect each and every part of his body. Once you find something prickly try to get rid of it with a medium or fine-toothed comb.

Rubbing a little cornstarch might help as well. Never use cornstarch in ears and eyes. But in case if the mess looks too big to handle on your own do not hesitate to seek professional help. Never use scissors under any circumstances.

Grass Awns

Grass awns might prove fatal if they are allowed to burrow into your dog's body. You should brush it off immediately. Then inspect your dog's feet, paw pads, face, gums, flews and ears thoroughly.

If you detect embedded foxtails remove it with tweezers and forceps. But if the foxtail is severely embedded do not try to remove it on your own. Take him to the vet to remove the awn professionally.

Oil Slicks

Paper towels, blots or wipe offs can be used to remove grease. You can also add a little dishwashing soap in a tub of lukewarm water. Then put your dog in the tub and apply the solution throughout your dog's body. Rinse thoroughly and then look for any oily residue in his coat.

Glue

If your dog gets water-based glue stuck in his coat use warm soapy water to clean the affected area followed by a bath. On the other hand if the glue is a type of contact cement it is advisable to seek professional help.

Besides this, your dog might get into skunk odor as well. In order to eliminate skunk odor fast keep baking soda, hydrogen peroxide and dishwashing soap handy.

Mix all the ingredients in an open container. Add the solution in lukewarm water and put your dog in it. Apply the solution all over your dog's coat and rinse thoroughly. Drain the tub and rinse again. If the smell still remains repeat the entire process all over again.

Issue #2 – Grooming Difficult, Uncooperative & Wiggly Dogs

All dog owners have to face up to an uncooperative or a difficult dog once in a while and it is imperative for them to know how to tackle these situations. The first thing to do when faced with such a dog is to get him checked from a vet, as it is quite likely that his peculiar behavior is a manifestation of an underlying medical condition.

Another thing you must always keep in mind when dealing with difficult dogs is that all dogs have inherited their behavior from a common ancestor, the wolf. And hence, make no mistake, all dogs; right from the docile, cute and tiny ones to the heavy, muscular and ferocious ones; have the potential to bite.

Needless to add, a dog bite can be quite a terrifying and painful experience and it can happen at any time, even while grooming. Generally speaking, bites are reactions to feelings of fear, pain, or anger and all dog owners must observe their pets hard to be able to recognize these feelings in them in order to avoid unpleasant incidents.

Dealing with fearful dogs

A fearful dog appears tentative and withdrawn. He's crouching with his tail between his legs, ears drawn back and eyes try to avoid meeting your gaze. His eyes will be wide open and you can actually see the whites of his eyes pretty well. He will bite if you try to go near him, and just wants to be left alone to calm down.

When dealing with the fearful dog : talk in a cheerful tone, offer him treats and his favorite toys. Moving slowly and not being pushy goes a long way in reducing your pet's anxiety.

Handling a dog in pain

It's quite apparent when a dog is in pain as he will cry and whine. You should never attempt to handle a dog in pain unless you are taking him to a vet. Even then, you need to muzzle the dog.

Sometimes something you do accidentally might hurt your pet and if the pain is beyond his threshold, he is going to hurt you. Therefore, exercising caution and using a muzzle is the best way out if you are undertaking a grooming procedure that might cause pain to your pooch.

Tackling an aggressive dog

An dog's aggressive behavior can't simply go unnoticed. An aggressive dog challenge you by barking and snarling at you. An aggressive dog can be one of the following:

- **Suspicious dog**: who feels the need to guard his toys or treats from you or any other dog
- **Pre-driven dog**: who is looking at you at his next prey

- **Frustrated dog:** who frustration has assumed the nature of aggression which is being at you
- **Dominant dog:** who feels threatened by you as he feels you are challenging his authority

Under no circumstances should you try to handle any of the above dog types as it could be dangerous. If you own a dog like the above, then seek help from a dog behaviorist, a vet or any other professional.

Muzzling versus Medication

Suppose you have a dog who, try as you much, is just not yielding to allow you to groom him. What do you do in such a scenario? Well, you have two options: one is muzzling the dog and the other is medicating him.

Muzzling

Muzzle is a devise that slips on to your dog's nose and mouth and basically prevents him from biting you when you are doing any grooming procedure on him. The good thing about using a muzzle is your dog is not drugged with dangerous chemicals while grooming and you are safe too.

But the downside is that can be dangerous during hot weather because the dog can overheat as it restricts breathing and prevents panting. Moreover, it does not look good and it can also make your dog behave more aggressively. So using the muzzle should be your last option.

Medicating

Barring the homeopathic and herbal medicines all other medicines should taken on the advise of your vet. Using medicines can have adverse side effects. In many cases, these medications can affect your dog's metabolism and make him more prone to overheating or chilling. If you decide to use medication, then check with your vet about the possible side effects.

Issue #3 – Training Your Pet For A Grooming Session

Good grooming practices are essential and must form an important part of the routine of every dog owner who loves his/ her dog. Dogs who are regularly groomed tend to have a healthier and shinier coat because it stimulates blood supply to the skin.

But many dog owners, sometimes, have to deal with pets that are reluctant and give them a real hard time during grooming sessions. Well, what we all seem to forget is that: like with everything else good grooming behavior needs to be instilled and won't happen overnight.

Here are a few tips that would help you to make your pet more receptive to grooming:

- **Make grooming a pleasant experience**

Don't wait until your dog is dirty or matted to introduce him to grooming. That would make him associate the experience with unpleasantness.

- **Start when he's a puppy**

This is the best time to introduce your pet to grooming. Puppies are more open to new experiences and therefore more likely to accept grooming. Moreover, many dogs learn to see their routine brushing as an alternate petting, another source of affection and attention.

- **Using positive reinforcement**

This method is one of the most popular training practices as it has been used successfully in most situations.

According to this method, you reward your dog for obeying or behaving the way you want him to and ignore him when he disobeys or behaves badly. As most dogs are food-driven, hence food is used in most positive reinforcement training.

- **The right time**

Choose a time when your dog is a little tired and a little hungry. In order to commence a grooming session, you need your pet to be willing and ready to accept food from you. However, make sure he's not so tired that he falls asleep!

- **The right place**

For the grooming area, choose a quiet corner of the house where neither you nor your pet can be distracted.

- **Petting him and giving small treats**

Observe him keenly as you touch different parts his body. Give him small treats when you touch him in areas he feels uncomfortable. Don't push too hard if you find he's still uncomfortable. Move to an area of the body where he likes being touched.

- **Short petting sessions**

Keep the petting sessions short (maybe just a couple of minutes) initially and spread them over the day. Then, as your pet starts enjoying them, make them longer gradually.

- **Familiarity with grooming instruments**

To accept grooming, your dog has to accept the grooming instruments working on him. Start with a soft slicker brush and repeat the petting routine described earlier. Make these sessions very short in the beginning.

Distract your pet by giving him short treats so that his attention is diverted away from the brush. Make sure that you don't stretch the session longer than your pet desires. Gradually increase the length of the sessions and introduce other grooming tools just like we did the slicker brush.

Issue #4 – Preventing Your Dog from Biting You While Grooming

Many of my clients often come to me and complain: “For the first time my Dog bit me.” Why I asked “why, what provoked him to bite you?” Their answer is simple, “I was grooming my dog”.

I guess this is the case with almost all dog owners. So don't worry as you are not the only one.

What I would suggest is, while grooming, you be gentle to him so that you neither evoke the behavior nor you allow the behavior in him. As far as my experience goes I have noticed persistency in letting them know that it isn't OK to bite you and handling them gently are the two things that have worked wonders for me.

Still if your dog gets nippy while grooming you can use a muzzle to stop him from biting you.

I know few of my friends who still face the same problem. When we meet they tell me what helps them. In order to give you as much information as possible I would tell you about the options they try.

If your dog is capable of handling mild tranquilizers ask your vet to administer one about half an hour before you groom your dog.

However, if you take him to the groomer make sure the groomer knows about this method.

You can also ask your vet if they groom. If he does then it's great. This way your dog doesn't have to go to another place for grooming while tranquilized.

Besides this you can try different things to divert his attention while grooming.

For example my sister has a poodle that used to bite whenever they tried to groom him. What they did was to give him a treat (summer sausage, his favorite) while grooming. This way he was busy with his favorite treat and their job was done without much trouble. I believe a toy will also serve the same purpose.



Issue #5 – Grooming Enhances Better Bonding with Your Dog

Grooming your dog doesn't have to be expensive salons and frequent trips to pet spas.

No! It doesn't have to be that at all.

A simple sunny afternoon, spent in the small backyard of your home, grooming your dog can work wonders for your relationship with your dog. A nice wash followed by a good amount of brushing can make your dog look up to you with pure love and affection. Through grooming you can convey your dog that you care.

The entire grooming session can be easily done at home. Good grooming habits begin with puppy care. Teach your little pup to sit, lie down or stand still while you work on its body.



Stroking your hand over your dog's pelt offers emotional and physical bonding (through the mere contact and touch) for you as a dog owner. Dogs given the right conditioning to human touch come to benefit from this interaction with their families just as much as the humans do.

Good grooming prepares a dog to the handling that is so precious in your relationship with your pet. At first your dog might act defensively. Not all of them like to be handled in "anyway". However, it is your duty as a owner

to make your dog's grooming experience fun-filled, enjoyable and of course effective. Puppies who are cuddled get the right start.

NEVER rough handle your dog. This is not only harmful for your dog physically, this can also affect your dog's mental health so much so that your dog might fail to trust your forever. Back off the moment you feel your dog is not liking your touch. It is the sensible thing to do. Your dog will protest through growls, snarls or snapping of teeth.

With time you will soon learn which strokes pleases your puppy as you slowly gain expertise. With time you'll also learn to make the entire grooming session pleasurable for your dog. Soon you'll find your dog will be looking forward to these sessions.

Don't be surprised if your dog falls asleep during the grooming sessions out of sheer delight. These sessions will bring a unique balance into your touch relationship with your puppy, and would lead to incredible benefits.

Un-matting your dog's matted hair might turn out to be painful for your dog. Make sure you are as gentle as you can be. A single wrong stroke can harm the beautiful bonding between you and your dog.

Patience and consistency are the keywords here that you need to work upon. Even if you find your dog protesting at first, with time and patience you'll soon be able to win his trust and love. Soon your dog will understand that it is part of the routine and start to enjoy it.

Remember: A few minutes spent everyday grooming your dog can act as a stepping stone for a beautiful relation with your dog. This will also make your new dog get used to human contacts.

Issue #6 – Successfully Dealing with Mats & Tangles

A mat is basically a tangle of hair, often with undercoat, that has formed a knot tight enough to resist brushing and combing. Mats tend to form on dogs with thick, long, curly, or double coats in corners of the body and areas with longer hair, such as the base of legs, the anal area under the tail, under the chest by the front legs, and around the ears.

In most cases, regular maintenance such as daily brushing and combing are needed to prevent tangles from turning into mats, but sometimes a mat will catch you off guard.

Mats form because hair is covered in tiny scales. When hair is tangled or harshly treated, those scales can stick up, acting like tiny barbs. These barbs catch shed hairs, woolly undercoat hairs, even dirt and debris, knotting and tangling until they form a solid mass of hair that is virtually impossible to comb through.

Some people deal with mats by simply cutting them out, leaving "holes" in the coat. Rather than cut the whole mat out, it is better to cut through the mat once or twice with scissors and then use the comb or brush to work it out, starting at the ends of the hair farthest from the body and slowly working in toward the body.



Unfortunately in severe cases of matting throughout the coat, you may be required to shave the coat.

Regular grooming should prevent the build up of mats, but if you have let things go, shaving down the coat might be a better approach rather than going through hours and hours working with a mat splitter, scissors, and comb, pulling on the poor dog's coat.

The first step in mat removal is to have the proper tools. You may be able to get through most mats with a pair of sharp scissors and a comb.

But you may also be able to preserve more coat using specialized equipment and products, such as:

Oil-based Coat Conditioner Spray

Do not try to remove a mat without first spraying it lightly with an oil-based coat spray. The oil in this spray helps to smooth down the scales on the hair, saturates and loosens the mat so that it comes out more easily.

De-Matting Comb

A mat comb is a type of comb-like tool with blades instead of teeth used for slicing large mats into small sections that can then be worked out individually. Do not use this if you are uncomfortable with it or your dog is wiggly and you have no way of restraining him.

Mat Splitter

A mat splitter is a blade with a curved handle that is used to cut through a mat. The curved

handle makes the mat splitter easy to hold and easy to slit into the mat. This is a very dangerous tool and should not be used by most pet owners.

Sharp Scissors

Sometimes, the best way to get rid of the mat is to cut it into strips. A sharp, pointed pair of scissors can do the work of a mat comb or a mat splitter.

Slicker Brush

After cutting the mat into smaller parts, brush out the tangles with a slicker brush.

Breeds that need frequent brushing to prevent mats and keep their coats healthy include:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ Afghan Hound | ✓ Old English Sheepdog |
| ✓ American Eskimo | ✓ Pomeranian |
| ✓ Australian Terrier | ✓ Shih Tzu |
| ✓ Bichon Frisé | ✓ Silky Terrier |
| ✓ Collie (Any type) | ✓ Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier |
| ✓ Cocker Spaniel | ✓ Tibetan Spaniel |
| ✓ Bernese Mountain Dog | ✓ Tibetan Terrier |
| ✓ Newfoundland | ✓ Yorkshire Terrier |

Sample Breeds:



Rough Collie



Yorkshire Terrier

Issue #7 – Costs & Investments Involved in Good Grooming

Before you decide on a dog you should realize that owning a dog would require a certain amount being spent on your dogs' maintenance, keeping and care.

While some dogs may not ever need a professional dog groomer in their entire life, many breeds demand a high-maintenance appearance. Haircuts, bathing, nail trimming, all cost a large sum of money at a dog salon.

Some breeds, who need regular brushing and clipping, need more equipment and supplies, while some breeds with wash-and-wear coats need only a couple of supplies.

Most of these supplies are expensive, but if searched properly you can get fine quality supplies and equipment at a much lower price. You may also find some of the supplies like the grocer store nail cutters, combs, slicker brushes, soft brushes and others are already available at home. Just make sure before using that they are not harmful for your dog.

If you don't have any of the supplies at all you still may find the quality ones without spending much.

The cost of grooming supplies depends entirely on which dog breed you own, or if you want to groom it as a pet or for dog shows. In spite of the cost you incur, as a dog owner you need to groom it on a regular basis to keep it fit and healthy.

The initial cost of buying grooming equipment and supplies is quite high. After that the expense is almost negligible unless something breaks or gets damaged. It is always cheaper to buy your own supplies than to take your dog to a pro for grooming.

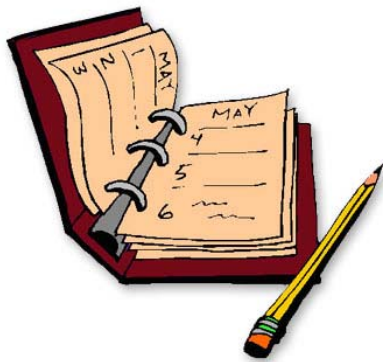
Although money is of utmost importance as far as dog grooming is concerned, bathing and brushing involves a lot of fun for both you and your dog. Grooming is of no less importance than housetraining your dog, or taking him to the vet for an annual check up.

Along with money, your time for the process is also important. For the initial grooming sessions you need to spend almost a couple of hours. But with regular maintenance the session might take only an hour or half. If you are too tied up with work take your dog to an expert and then maintain it after the groomer trims it to a manageable shape.

If you want to groom your dog for any show you need to spend more money and time than you spend on a dog as a pet. They require special show clips. Some coat types require special leave-in coat conditioners, bodifiers and coat dressings. In addition to this the striped breeds take time to develop and maintain.

So before you decide on a dog learn about the costs of maintaining the breed you want to own.

Issue #8 – Importance of Maintaining a Grooming Diary



A Grooming Diary is of immense importance in a dog ownership.

It is nothing but a record of how does your dog look like, how does he respond to certain things and situations, what processes did you follow while grooming, and many such little details.

It need not be a fancy stuff. The most important thing is to note down the events in an organized manner so that you can refer to them in future.

As for example if on a particular day your dog reacts aggressively while clipping his nails, which usually does not happen, then you can keep a note of the same and inform it to the vet on your next visit.

The following **Six** points are the basic information, which you should enter while maintaining a grooming diary.

Date Chart

This will help you to keep a note of when was the last grooming session held.

Grooming Process(s)

Make a note of whether you simply shampooed your dog or trimmed his coats or did you groom him from nose to tail.

Possible Health Concerns

Jot down if his coat looks dull or greasy, or is he shedding more than the usual, or any big or small problem concerning his health.

Alternating Behavioral Changes

Make a note of how your dog reacts. For example, if your dog becomes restless when you take him out in the garden for a walk, or was he like this before also, or is it something new that you want to try with him.

Notes

If you keep a note of something you want to try on your dog when you groom him next, then the note will act as a reminder for the same.

Add Snaps

It is a good idea to include your dog's snaps in Diary. If you own a camera you can stick snapshots of your dog in that diary as well. You can stick two images of your dog for each session: one before the grooming, and another one after the grooming.

Issue #9 – Situations That Require Professional Grooming Help

No matter how much you take care of your dog there are situations when there is no way out but to seek professional help. These situations mainly arise because of either lack of time and patience, or if children are responsible for their grooming.

Lack of time & patience

You want your Standard Poodle to look his best. But you cannot afford to spend enough time needed to groom him. Or your Bearded Collie comes home with dirty, rough and greasy hair. And you find it difficult to get them off from his coats.

Your Great Dane is giving you a tough time brushing his teeth or clipping his nails. Or it might so happen you have a dog who was never groomed before, then you need an expert to put his coats in shape so that you can maintain it from then onwards. In other words if you are lazy, too tied up with work or impatient you need to seek professional help.

Groomed by children

Another situation when you might consider professional help is when children take care of the pet. By nature children are not enough responsible or patient to take care of their dogs and groom them on a regular basis.

Besides the grooming procedures include steps, which are beyond children's control. No matter how much they swear to take care of them, they usually fail in their responsibilities. And as a result the task ultimately passes onto an adult.

Therefore, it is advisable to take help of a professional expert whenever the above-mentioned situations occur. Do not hesitate. It is a part of dog ownership to provide good care to your dog.

If your dog is not groomed properly he will neither look good nor will he keep well. It might bring in health complications as well. So when you cannot afford time and patience for grooming your dog take him to a professional as and when required.

Issue #10 – Dealing with Ticks, Mites Lice and Fleas

Ticks, fleas, lice and mites are quite common in dogs.

These are external parasites, which are harmful for both you and your dog. The worst thing about them is it needs a lot of effort to eliminate them. They can go to the extent of making your life miserable. However, there are ways and methods with which you can get rid of them without much difficulty.

Ticks

Ticks are bloodsucking pests and vector diseases. So the moment you find a tick on your dog, remove it immediately. The longer it stays the more are the chances of transmitting diseases. In order to remove ticks you should keep forceps or tweezers, a jar with rubbing alcohol and a lid, latex gloves, and flea-killing powders fit for dogs handy.

Spray some powder on the tick and let it sit on the parasite for some time. This will loosen the tick's grip, or might even kill the tick also. Pull it out straight using tweezers. Make sure to take out the entire tick. If the tick is still alive put it in a jar of alcohol to kill it.

Clean the tweezers in soap water. Next wash the affected area of your dog and if you see any sign of rash or infection take him to the vet.

Lice

They are tiny light-colored flightless insects. Lice infestation is quite rare in dogs, but they might happen. They are more common among dogs with poor backgrounds, such as the ones, which were neglected and had experienced poor living conditions. Dogs with lice are often faced with hazardous health problems.

A good flea dip usually eliminates the lice and their eggs. Nix, an anti-lice soap, is a good alternative too. Once you detect lice in dogs get rid of all the materials that he has slept in. Do not forget to wash and disinfect the house.

Mites

Mites are small spider like insects. They are responsible for causing mange a condition that involves itching, lesions and scabs, and hair loss. Cheyletiella mange are walking dandruffs affecting puppies.

The moment you suspect cheyletiella mange in your dog take him to the vet. You also need to disinfect the areas where your dog goes regularly. If your dog suffers from chiggers (itching) use a vet recommended good flea shampoo.

Fleas

Like the ticks, fleas too transmit diseases. Most likely they will be found around your dog's belly or groin, as they prefer warm areas. Once you detect the fleas, a simple bath is not enough. Consult with your vet for a good systematic flea control product.

Flea dips and insecticides too can be used to get rid of the fleas. But try and avoid using insecticides as much as possible, as they can be dangerous for dogs. Once the fleas are

killed, vacuum the entire house. Also keep your lawns clean. This will lessen the number of fleas.

Demedectic Mange

Another harmful condition is demedectic mange affecting the dog's immune system. For this vet's diagnosis is absolutely necessary followed by prescribed medicines. If your dog suffers from otodectic mange you will find your dog scratching or shaking his head continuously with dark brown, waxy, coffee-ground-like stuff in his ears.

For this a number of homemade remedies are available. Plus you can consult your vet for the prescribed medicines. Scabies are deadly forms of mange. They are highly infectious and can transfer from dog to dog and even to humans.

Your dog can even get it from infected grooming supplies. They tend to cause hair loss and crusty itchy skin. If you suspect scabies in your dogs take him to the vet without delay for a prescribed dip and an oral dosage.

Issue #11 – 10 Convenient Grooming Tips for Time-crunched Dog Owners

There is no doubt that grooming a dog is time consuming. But if you follow some quick tips, you can save both time and energy with perfect and effective results.

1. Use No-Rinse Shampoo for Touchups

Whenever your dog picks up some dirt, mud or if it has run into a mess, you can use no-rinse shampoos to clear off the mess. You need to take a wet sponge or paper towel, put some no-rinse shampoo (called the blue shampoo because of its color) and rub the affected area. Once the area is cleaned use a doggie blow-drier, or a comb, or a slicker brush to puff-up the hair to dry them.

2. Handy Rubber Basins

If you want to avoid mess or do spot cleaning and clippings, nothing serves like a handy rubber basin. This way you can prevent the mess from spreading and cut down on the cleaning process. It is especially useful for small dogs.

You can put them in the basin and clip their coats without actually letting the hair fall around. It can also be used as an emergency washbasin for small dogs. For large dogs they act as a catchall. Besides this, it serves as a storage container for your quick cleanup means.

3. Grind Your Dog's Nails

Nail grinders are good alternatives to nail clippers. Plus you can save yourself from the pain of filing the rough edges. But while using the grinders keep two things in mind. First, do not over use them, or else, your dog might get an infection. Secondly, use grinders, which are meant for dog's nails only for his safety.

4. Brush Daily for a Fresh Breath and Clean Teeth

Brush your dog's teeth at least once a week. It will be even better if you can follow it daily. Toys with grooves and nubs are also good for cleaning your dog's teeth. Using doggie toothpaste between brushings is also helpful.

5. Wrap with Snoods and Hoods

If you want to save your dog's ears and coats from getting dirty you can use snoods, a type of wrap around cloth. They are easily available in the market or you can make them at home with any stretchy fabric.

Similarly you can protect your dog's legs from mud or dirt with simple leg protectors like socks wrapped around your dog's hind legs. You can also wrap a towel or soft cloth around your dog's waist to guard their long flowing hairs from getting soiled or muddy when they go outside.

6. Use Pet Cuts

Clipping dog coats involves a lot of trouble. You have to be extra careful. Pet cuts which are nothing but an easy to maintain cut, prove quite helpful while cleaning up or clipping your dog's coat between the actual clippings.

7. Condition Your Dog's Coat

If your dog's coats look drab and rundown, brighten it up with some good conditioners. Oil based conditioners like lanolin or mink oil are good for dogs with short coat.

Apply a small amount of the conditioner all over the dog's coat to give it a shinny effect. For dogs with long coats you need to spray enough conditioner and then comb the hairs to add shine to them.

8. Get Rid of the Doggie Odor

Doggie scents, bodifiers or coat dressings are useful whenever your dog smells bad. These will not kill the smell or make your dog clean but is sure to make the atmosphere better. Follow the directions on the label while applying the scented sprays or else you might harm the dog.

9. Use Hair Pickups

Hair pick-ups can be of great use to get rid of the clipped hairs after dog cleaning. Use rollers with two-sided tape preferably than the rinse-and-use rollers. The second one tends to loose its stickiness fast.

10. Substitutes for Dog Clean-up Supplies

Sometimes shampoos, conditioners, and dryers (with a no-heat setting) intended for humans can be applied on dogs. But do not use them regularly, only if there is an emergency or if you run out of the stock. Plain ivory or Dawn dishwashing soaps too are good substitutes.

Issue #12 – 10 Tips to Make Your Dog Enjoy Grooming

Grooming can be both fun as well a nightmare. It depends on how well you deal with the situations. Followings are some of the ways you can employ to make grooming a pleasant experience.

1. Follow a Grooming Routine

If you maintain a grooming routine your dog will look forward to something eagerly at that point of time everyday. Fill those small sessions with fun so that your dog enjoys them as well. This does not require you to clean him from nose to tail. You can just brush his teeth or clip his toenails accompanied by fun-filled activities.

2. Don't Try Too Many Things in a Day

It is useless to say most dogs hate the grooming sessions. It might be because of the time it takes or the procedures it involves. So you can try small things initially and then move on to the elaborate procedures.

As for example one-day trim toenails only on one paw and clean his left ear. And then trim the nails on the other paw and clean the right ear the next day. This way your dog will slowly get habituated to the grooming process and will not create much trouble.

3. Do Not Rush While Grooming

Time is of utmost importance while grooming your dog. If you don't give enough time and rush through the entire grooming procedure your dog will sense it. Since dogs are very sensible animals they will too try to get done with the process fast so that you are done quickly.

On the other hand, you have more chances of making mistakes and hurting the dog in a hurry. Therefore choose a time that best suits you. Preferably night is a good time due to two reasons primarily. One is you will be done with the day's work. Secondly, the dog will be too drained out to create any fuss.

4. Use the Right Tools

You can harm the dog if you don't use the appropriate equipments. Know your dog type, his coat type and get the right supplies needed to groom him. Do not hesitate to spend on the right tools. Remember it's better than going to the vet and spending a lot. Besides, there are lesser chances of causing pain to your dog.

5. Controlling the Situations at All Times

If you don't know how to control your dog, half your energy will be drained out to get your dog in the grooming area. You can crate him and keep him busy with a tub noose, while you perform your cleaning processes. So plan before you start grooming your dog.

6. Use Ergonomically Designed Tools

If you are prone to backaches or any other condition that is harmful for your hands or backs, you can go for ergonomically designed tools. These are particularly designed to fit better in your hands or cause less exhaustion.

Some of these are raised groomer's tub, grooming steps or ramps, non-slip cushion mat and grooming mat. You can learn about them and buy them at any pet store.

7. Making Your Dog Comfortable

It is very important that your dog feels comfortable while going through the grooming procedures. Do not use very cold or hot water. Lukewarm water is the best option. Also keep him warm and cool depending on the weather conditions.

Besides temperature, take care of his thirst and hunger before, after and during the process. Make sure whether he needs to relieve himself or not. If these things are not taken care of he will get cranky and make the job difficult. Provide him with rubber-backed rugs and dog toys to keep him busy and ease his fear.

8. Make Your Dog Realize Grooming is Fun

Dogs in general hate grooming. It depends on you how you make them love and enjoy the process. You have to groom them regularly so that they realize while grooming they are actually spending quality time with their owners. It becomes all the more special if the sessions are fun-filled. You can try out the following strategies.

Go for the grooming session after an energetic play session when the dog gets a bit tired. Appreciate his efforts with pats, praise and treats while grooming him. Avoid accidents and causing him pain during the process. At the end of the session give him his favorite toy or treat.

9. Put an End to your Grooming Nightmares

If you keep your dog's coats well maintained, you don't need to dread the grooming sessions anymore. If he is already well maintained half your job is done during the sessions. Then you just need to trim the coats a bit. Make sure you groom them at least once a week if not twice.

10. Keep your Calm and Be Cheerful

If you are in a grumpy and irritable mood, skip the session for that day. Start afresh the next day when both you and your dog are cheerful with a positive attitude. Nothing is worse than grooming an unhappy dog.

Afterword

Thanks once again for downloading *Grooming Your Dog at Home - The Ultimate Guide*. I wanted to give you a step-by-step manual that will help you understand the fundamentals of dog grooming and care. I have tried to cover important fields that you might need help on every now and then while pampering your dear companion.

All pet owners want their pets to be happy, healthy and active. They want to have a mutual bond between them that would be strong and long lasting. Love, affection, care, attention and proper training make this bond stronger and everlasting. I am sure my tips will be useful for you.

Owning a dog is not a simple job. But the outcome is worth the effort. I am sure you too will be a happy dog owner with an equally happy pet. I hope this e-book will be of immense help to you.

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