

Dog Grooming



General:

Proper grooming is an important part of pet care. It not only makes a companion animal look better, but it contributes to their overall health and well being.

Coat:

Brush your pet every day or at the very least every other day. This helps to keep their hair in good condition by removing dirt, spreading the natural oils throughout the coat, preventing tangles and mats from forming and keeping the skin clean and free from irritation.

Nails:

Trim your dog's nails at least once per month. You'll need a clipper designed specifically for the animal you have primarily based on size. Either a scissor or guillotine-style clipper should be used. If available, make sure to pick up a small bottle of blood-clotting powder incase the quick is cut while clipping your animals nails.

HOW TO CUT YOUR DOG'S NAILS:

1. Have your dog sit beside you, then place one of their paws in your hand and gently pull it forward. If your pet dislikes being handled this way, slowly accustom them to it as it is a necessary part of your pets care.
2. Gradually shorten each nail. Be sure to stop before you reach the quick, which is the part of the nail that contains nerves and blood vessels. If the quick is not clearly visible, stop cutting just behind the point where the nail begins to curve downward.
3. If you happen to cut into the quick, do not panic. Put some clotting powder on a moist cotton swab and press it firmly against the nail for several seconds.
4. Do not forget to trim the dewclaw, which is located on the inside of each front leg just above the paw. (Not all dogs will have a dewclaw.)

Ears:

Ear care is an important part of your pets grooming as well as their overall health. Ear infections can not only be painful, but can lead to permanent hearing loss as well. Signs of a possible problem with your dogs ears include redness, constant scratching of the ear area, head shaking and odor coming from the ear area.

HOW TO CLEAN YOUR DOG'S EARS:

1. Check your dog's ears at least twice per month. The skin inside and on the flaps should be a pale pink. If there is a foul odor and/or any red, brown or black skin, have a Veterinarian exam your dog's ears as soon as possible.
2. Moisten a cotton ball or sterile gauze with warm water or ear cleaning solution and use it to clean the opening of the canal and the flaps. Do not probe too deeply into the canal area.

Teeth:

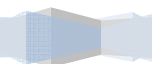
Dog's teeth can get cavities and their gums can develop periodontal disease, so their teeth and gum area should be cleaned with pet safe toothpaste at least twice per week. It is best to use a small toothbrush with soft bristles when cleaning your dog's teeth. Cleanings performed by a Veterinarian may be required at times also.

Bathing:

Bathe your dog at least once every other month or as often as needed. Be sure to brush them before each bath in order to get all the mats out of their coat.

HOW TO BATHE YOUR PET:

1. Place a rubber mat in your bath tub or a towel in your sink for secure footing. Place a cotton ball in each of your dog's ears to prevent water from entering.
2. Rinse your dog with warm water. Use a spray hose if available, but be sure to keep the nozzle very close to your dog's body. Never spray your dog directly in face as the water may be and feel hotter to them then it does to you.
3. Apply a shampoo specifically designed for pets in small amounts, working from their head to their tail. Be sure to clean the rectum, between the toes, behind the ears and under their chin. Try to avoid getting shampoo in your dog's eyes.



4. Thoroughly rinse your dog with warm water while ensuring that all the shampoo has been rinsed off.
5. Dry your animal with a towel and/or blow-dryer.

Last Revised on 10/4/2007

