

Grooming Your Pet

Grooming your pet is an important part of your pet's health. Regular brushing and bathing will remove dead hair and dirt and prevent tangles from forming in your pet's coat. Animals that are regularly groomed tend to have healthier and shinier coats because of increased blood supply to the skin. Grooming also provides an excellent opportunity to bond with your pet as most pets love being brushed. Below are the answers to some common grooming questions.

Why do I need to brush and comb my pet?

Your pet's coat is its biggest grooming hurdle. If you don't brush or comb your pet, it may get a greasy coat or tangled clumps of fur. If left long enough, the skin at the base of tangles can become infected. Brushing and combing your pet can also strengthen your friendship and bond.

What types of brush or comb do I use?



Bristle Brush: Bristle brushes can be used on most domestic pets. They are gentle and effective at removing loose hair and dirt from the surface of the coat. These brushes are ideal for animals with short hair.



Moulting Comb: Moulting combs can be used on dogs, cats, and rabbits. The long tapered teeth of this comb penetrate into the undercoat while the short teeth loosen and remove hair. These combs are great for animals with medium to long hair.



Slicker Brush: Slicker brushes can be used on dogs, cat and rabbits with all lengths of fur. They are designed to gently remove loose hair and dirt from the coat.



Rake: Rakes can be used on dogs. The tines of this comb go directly to the skin and stimulate the natural oils in the skin. It is good for short to medium haired dogs that don't have an undercoat.



Turbo Brush: Turbo brushes can be used on most domestic pets with different fur lengths. These brushes are made of a super soft silicone which removes tangles and traps dirt and loose hair.

How do I brush or comb my pet?

When brushing your pet always insure you are very gentle. If you frighten or hurt your pet during grooming you may teach the pet to fear grooming and it could become fearful and aggressive. When brushing your pet, gently brush or comb the fur in the same direction it is growing. Never brush in the opposite direction of fur growth as this can irritate or even hurt your pet. It is a good idea to get your pet used to being brushed and combed from an early age. This will make grooming easier when they are older.

What do I do about tangled fur?

Even well groomed pets can get tangled fur. Being very gentle begin to work out the tangles with a moulting comb. Be patient as this may take a bit of time. With one hand hold the hair as close to the skin as possible without pulling. Use the tip of the moulting comb to gently loosen the tangle. As the tangle breaks apart it should easily come out. Never use scissors to cut out tangles because it is easy to accidentally cut your pet or yourself. If the animal becomes distressed, stop and wait until later. If you have troubles removing large tangles get help from a vet or professional animal groomer.

How should I bath my dog?

Step 1: Only bath your dog when it is not too cold. Your dog can lose body temperature just like you do when you have a bath. Get everything ready first. You will need a sink or bath with a gentle spray nozzle, a towel, a washcloth, a bottle of animal shampoo, a cup and it may be a good idea to have a waterproof apron on and a friend to help!

Step 2: Fill the sink with warm water and then place your dog into the water. Reassure them with your voice. Gently pour water over the body, do not get water in the ears and never pour water over the face.

Step 3: Once the animal is wet, empty the water from the sink and gently massage the shampoo into the fur. You can use a warm damp washcloth with shampoo on it to clean the areas around the face.

Step 4: Once you have completed shampooing, you need to rinse. It is important to rinse all the shampoo out of your pet's coat, or your dog may get irritated skin from the soap in the shampoo. Use the nozzle to gently spray warm water over the body to remove the shampoo. Use a clean washcloth to clean the shampoo off the areas around the face. Repeat rinsing and wiping until you have removed all signs of shampoo.

Step 5: Use a towel to begin drying. Some dogs may require a longer period of time for drying depending on the hair length and coat type. Especially on a cold day, make sure the dog is completely dry before you let it go outside.

Step 5: Once the dog is dry, give it a gentle thorough brushing and lots of cuddles.

How do I brush my pet's teeth?

Yes, even pets need to have their teeth cleaned! If you are concerned about your pet's teeth, the first thing to do is see a vet. The vet can provide you with the appropriate advice, animal toothpaste and tooth brush. Use minimal restraint and brush the teeth with a gentle massaging motion. Once finished reward your pet with treats and cuddles, so they begin to look forward to getting their teeth brushed. In an ideal world, you should brush your pet's teeth every day.

