



Grooming Basics

Different Strokes

There are many factors that determine your dog's grooming needs. Take into consideration: coat type, coat color, hair growth, shedding, weight, age, and diet. This guide will help you to provide your dog proper grooming and good hygiene.



Tony La Russa's
**Animal
Rescue
Foundation**
www.arflife.org

How often do I...?

Give my dog a bath?

At least once every 3 months, no more than every two weeks

Brush my dog's teeth?

At least twice a week

Trim my dog's nails

Every week or two, as needed

Brush my dog?

It depends on your dog's coat

Clean my dog's ears?

Once a week or as needed, always dry ears with a cotton ball after your dog has gotten wet.

The Basics on Brushes



Smooth, short-coated dogs, like Chihuahuas, Boxers or Bassets, need brushing once a week.



Dogs with a double coat and dense fur, like Labs and Shepherds, need a good brushing several times a week.



Long luxurious coated dogs, like Yorkies, need daily brushing to remove tangles and need their hair trimmed.



Soft bristle brushes remove dust, dander and dirt from short coated dogs.



Slicker brushes can be used on all coat types and work well on dense coats or on tangles and mats.



The "Furminator" is a high quality de-shedding tool used to remove the undercoat without damaging the top coat.



Pin brushes work well on dogs with long flowing hair. The tips of the bristles are round and smooth to avoid abrasions.

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Happy Paws

Plenty of dogs do not like their paws handled, let alone look forward to nail trims. Instead of fighting your dog over nail clipping or giving up and sending him to the groomer, take some time to teach your dog to enjoy paw handling. Your dog will quickly learn to tolerate paw and toe squeezes which will make clipping or grinding nails a breeze!

Easy-peazy Training Plan:

1. Touch paw, give treat
2. Hold paw, give treat
3. Squeeze paw, give treat
4. Separate toes, give treat
5. Squeeze toes, give treat
6. Touch clippers to paw, give treat
7. Clip nail just a tiny, itty, bitty bit, give treat
8. Repeat steps 1-7 on each toe. Make sure to go at a pace that is comfortable for your dog.

Doggy Dentals

Good dental hygiene is a part of keeping your dog healthy. It's important to start your dental routine with your dog as early as possible. Puppies should be taught to tolerate having their mouth, teeth and gums handled. For adult dogs, follow our tips for first time teeth brushers.

Easy-peazy training plan:

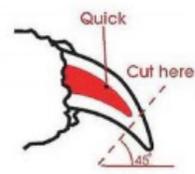
1. Start by gently massaging your dog's gums with your finger while he is relaxed
2. After a few sessions, put a dab of doggy toothpaste on your finger to get him used to the taste
3. Introduce the toothbrush. Allow your dog to lick the toothpaste off the bristles
4. Finally, lift your dog's gums to expose teeth. Continue to brush only as long as he will tolerate. Don't make it a fuss.



Your clippers should always be sharp!



Some dogs have an easier time with nail grinders. See what works best for you and your dog.



Be careful of the quick! If accidentally cut, apply styptic powder to stop the bleeding.



Grooming should never be a struggle. Take the time to teach your dog to enjoy handling and grooming.



Special doggy toothpaste is safe for your dog to swallow and ingest.



Toothbrushes designed to fit on your finger may make things easier.

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