



Grooming Your Dog



Grooming will help your dog look and feel his best and is an important part of responsible dog ownership. It also gives you a chance to spend some "quality time" with your dog. Remember, the earlier you get your puppy or dog used to grooming, the easier it will be! Brushing, bathing, brushing teeth, trimming nails and cleaning ears and eyes are all things you should do to keep your dog well groomed.

Brushing

Brushing several times a week will keep most dogs neat and clean. Some breeds may need to be brushed more often because they are more likely to get mats and tangles. Begin brushing at the neck, working toward the tail and down the legs, then brush the head last. Gently brush all the way down to the skin. Check closely for signs of fleas, ticks or skin irritations.



Brush your dog regularly to keep him looking his best!

Bathing

In general, you only need to bathe your dog when he is dirty or smelly. Bathing too often can remove natural oils, making your dog's coat and skin dry. Be sure to brush your dog before giving him a bath, removing all mats and tangles. Wet your dog with warm water. Work a mild dog shampoo into a lather beginning at the neck and working back. Rinse with warm water. Be careful not to get shampoo in his eyes or ears. After your dog is dry, brush and comb him again.



Work the shampoo into a lather from the neck back.

See the fall 2003 Kids' Corner on the AKC Web site for more information about grooming.