



Grooming - brushing, clipping

HALL VETERINARY SURGERY BEHAVIOUR ADVICE



Brushing your dog's coat removes dead hair. Hair that is shed but not removed can easily form mats which can be painful. Bacteria can cluster under these mats and infections can occur. Brushing also helps to stimulate the skin and distribute natural oils throughout the coat. Daily brushing of your dog also prevents excessive hair drops around the house; promotes healthy circulation and distribution of natural oils throughout the coat. Brushing can be a relationship building exercise between you and your dog and all that regular contact means you can find any lumps and bumps that may appear on the dog's body.

A puppy should be brushed daily, but each session must be a very short and pleasant experience for the pup. Let the puppy sit or have it lie down with a treat such as a pig's ear to occupy her. Brush the pup gently and keep the sessions short. The less restraint you use the more success you will have.

HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO BRUSH MY PET?

Brush your pet coat as often as you can, no matter if it is a short-haired dog or long-haired dog. If you brush your dog regularly you minimise the necessity of bathing your dog as frequently.

HOW TO BRUSH YOUR DOG

In order for your dog to enjoy the process, it is important to introduce them early and in a positive manner to the tools and process of being brushed. With a puppy that has never been brushed, combine light brushing with something positive like dog food treats or toys. Focus the puppy on the treat in your hand and lightly stroke once or twice with the brush. Only do this a few times in the beginning and slowly build up as your puppy's tolerance level builds.

Dogs that are not used to being brushed often have to be acquainted with the brush the same way as a puppy. Always try to exercise the dog first with a good walk or playtime to wear out some of his excess energy. Then, lightly brush a few times while keeping the dog focused on food or toys.

Keep initial sessions to just a minute or two. If you force a dog to be brushed when it's not comfortable, you will create a lasting bad impression with your dog. For any kind of dog, start with a brush like a pin brush or a rubber brush like the Zoom Groom. These might not be the tools you will most frequently use as the dog becomes used to the process, but they are both very gentle and feel good to the touch. The better the experience your dog has initially with brushing, the more he will enjoy it overall.

CLIPPING

Quiet, cordless clippers are easiest to get a dog or pup used to. Many of the cheaper ones do not come with replacement blades, but they are small, making them easier to manipulate and quiet. This makes them easier for the pup to get used to.

If using scissors to clip around the paws, ears and face please use snub-ended scissors so there are no sharp ends which can cause damage to your pet.

SLICKER BRUSHES FOR LONGER COATS



SELECT QUIET, CORDLESS CLIPPERS FOR FEET, FACE, BOTTOM AND EARS.

USE SCISSORS WITH SAFETY ENDS



ZOOM GROOMS ARE GREAT FOR GETTING ALL PUPS USED TO GROOMING.