

## Keeping Your Pet Looking Fresh After Grooming



Don't you love the way your pet looks, feels, and smells after a day at our grooming salon and spa? Wouldn't it be great if you could keep him looking that good all the time? Well, you can. All you need is some time, the proper tools, and the know-how to use them correctly.

### **There's more to good grooming than just looking good**

Just as you take care of your everyday grooming needs, your pet needs routine care too. Regular professional and at-home grooming sessions are essential for your pet's comfort and well being.

### **Tools and Techniques**

Our professionals here can help you assemble an at-home pet grooming kit. It should contain the same grooming tools and spa quality skin and coat care products that your pet enjoys while here at our salon. Our stylist will be happy to instruct you on their correct usage. Even with the right tools, if you don't know how to use them properly, you will seldom achieve the desired results.

### **Brushing**

Whether you have a smooth coated Boxer, a double-coated Siberian Husky, a heavy coated Shetland Sheepdog, or a Yorkie with long flowing hair-your pet needs to be brushed regularly. A thorough brushing has many benefits. It stimulates your pet's skin and circulation and helps distribute natural oils throughout his coat. While brushing, you can inspect your pet's skin for any lumps or abnormalities, and you can check him for fleas or other critters. Difficult types of coats require special brushes and specific brushing techniques. Our stylist will teach you how to correctly brush your pet's hair, ensuring that you brush completely down to the skin and not just the hair on the top. Always follow the brushing with a thorough combing. Allow your comb to reach down to your pet's skin as it glides through his tangle free coat. Combing is important because it will catch any small mats

that you may have missed during brushing. Give your pet lots of praise and encouragement as you are brushing him. Make your grooming sessions a special time for you and your pet.



### **Ear Health**

Inspect your pet's ears weekly. They should be a healthy looking pink with no foul odor or wax buildup. To maintain healthy ears, they should be carefully and thoroughly cleaned with ear wash. If you observe your pet rubbing his ears or scratching them excessively, or if they have an unpleasant odor, see your veterinarian.

### **Toe nails**

For your pet's comfort and to protect your family and home from scratches, your pet's toenails should always be kept short and smooth. This can be achieved through either clipping or grinding the nail. There is a huge difference between these two services. Clipping is when we use nail trimmers to just clip the tips of the nail, being careful to not cut into the quick but leaving a very jagged, rough edge on the nail. The quick is a vein inside each nail and clipping that vein will cause the nail to bleed and will bring great discomfort to your pet. This is a big mistake that a lot of pet parents tend to make when they try to clip the nails at home by themselves. You may not want to attempt trimming his nails at home because the dog can usually be traumatized for the next nail trim. However our staff always recommends the nail grinding because we know that you will see and feel the difference. The Nail grinder or "dremel" is a tool that we use to literally file the nail down slowly and carefully until we reach the desired length. Nail grinding is a safer and sometimes less stressful route to take, not to mention it will leave your pet's nails feeling smoother and they will be at the shortest length they can be. Please contact our salon if your pet's nails need attention and let our professionals care for your pet. Although nail trimming comes with

every service, we realize that some nails grow faster than others and need more attention. Call us if you need to see us between regularly scheduled appointments.

### **Dental Health**



Your pet's dental health is extremely important. Tarter buildup can contribute to a multitude of tooth, gum, and other health problems. Regular brushing of your pet's teeth will keep them sparkling and will contribute to healthy gums and fresh breath. Always use pet toothpaste, breath freshening, and oral care products that are made specifically for your pet. Our specialists here can show you a variety of teeth care products we carry.

### **Bath Time**



One of the most popular questions is "How often should I bathe my pet?" As long as you're using high quality products that possess soothing and moisturizing agents and will not dry out the skin and you are rinsing your pet thoroughly- you may bathe your pet whenever you feel he needs it. Gather everything you will need: shampoo, conditioner, towels, ear cleaner, cotton balls, eye wash, hair dryer, and... your pet of course! Be sure to visit our salon if you are searching for products- (we carry the best quality in shampoos and conditioners). Begin the process by giving your pet a thorough brushing, making sure that there are no mats or snarls in his coat. A non-slip mat on the bottom of your tub will help your pet feel secure during his bath. Place your pet in the tub. This is a good time to clean your pet's ears. After

cleaning, put cotton balls in his ears to keep the water out. Wet your pet using comfortably warm, never hot, water. Apply a high quality pet shampoo and massage it through his coat. Never use any product on a cat, kitten or puppy unless it says it is approved for use on them. After shampooing, be sure to rinse very thoroughly. One of the most important parts of bathing your pet is to make sure to get the shampoo completely out of their fur. Rinse, Rinse, Rinse. Apply conditioner according to the directions. Again, it is very important to rinse ALL of the products out of the coat or else any remaining product can cause itchiness or other issues. Towel dry your pet, then use a warm (not hot) hair dryer to get him completely dry. Once your pet is clean and dry, give him a final brushing and a spritz of pet cologne to complete his at-home grooming.