

Dog Grooming Checklist

A dog grooming checklist for owners covering brushing, bathing, nails, ears, teeth and coat.

Gather grooming supplies

- ☐ Choose the right brush or comb for your dog's coat type.
- ☐ Get a gentle, dog-specific shampoo and conditioner.
- ☐ Have dog nail clippers or a grinder and styptic powder ready.
- ☐ Keep a vet-recommended ear cleaner and cotton pads on hand.
- ☐ Prepare a dog toothbrush and dog-safe toothpaste.
- ☐ Set out towels, a non-slip mat and plenty of treats.

Brushing and coat

- ☐ Brush in the direction of hair growth to remove loose fur.
- ☐ Work through tangles and mats gently before bathing.
- ☐ Brush more often during shedding seasons.
- ☐ Check the skin for fleas, ticks, lumps or irritation.
- ☐ Trim long hair around the eyes, paws and rear as needed.
- ☐ Reward calm behavior to keep brushing positive.

Bathing

- ☐ Brush out the coat before getting your dog wet.
- ☐ Use lukewarm water and a dog-specific shampoo.
- ☐ Lather thoroughly while avoiding the eyes and inside the ears.
- ☐ Rinse completely so no shampoo residue remains.
- ☐ Towel dry and use a dryer on low if your dog tolerates it.
- ☐ Keep your dog warm and calm until fully dry.

Nail trimming

- ☐ Handle the paws gently to get your dog comfortable.
- ☐ Trim a little at a time and avoid the quick.
- ☐ Keep styptic powder nearby in case of a small cut.
- ☐ Smooth rough edges with a file or grinder if needed.
- ☐ Reward your dog throughout to build a positive habit.
- ☐ Listen for nails clicking on the floor as a trim reminder.

If you are unsure or your dog resists, a professional groomer or your veterinarian can help.

Ears and eyes

- ☐ Check ears for redness, odor, discharge or excess wax.
- ☐ Clean visible areas with a vet-recommended ear cleaner.
- ☐ Never insert cotton swabs deep into the ear canal.
- ☐ Wipe around the eyes with a damp, soft cloth.
- ☐ Trim hair near the eyes carefully to keep vision clear.
- ☐ Report persistent redness, discharge or head shaking to your veterinarian.

Dental care

- ☐ Introduce tooth brushing slowly with dog-safe toothpaste.
- ☐ Brush along the gumline using gentle, small motions.
- ☐ Aim for regular brushing, ideally most days of the week.
- ☐ Offer dental chews or toys as a helpful supplement.
- ☐ Watch for bad breath, red gums or trouble eating.
- ☐ Schedule professional dental checks with your veterinarian.
- ☐ Important: This is general information, not professional advice. Consult a professional groomer for coat-specific grooming and your veterinarian for skin, ear, dental or any health concerns.