Pet Grooming Checklist

A general pet grooming checklist for owners covering coat, bath, nails, ears, teeth and skin.

Prepare to groom

- [ ] Gather tools suited to your pet's species and coat.
- [ ] Choose a calm time and a safe, non-slip surface.
- [ ] Have pet-safe shampoo, towels and treats ready.
- [ ] Introduce tools slowly so your pet stays comfortable.
- [ ] Keep sessions short, especially when starting out.
- [ ] Reward calm behavior to make grooming positive.

Coat and brushing

- [ ] Brush in the direction of hair growth to remove loose fur.
- [ ] Work out tangles and small mats gently.
- [ ] Adjust frequency to your pet's coat and shedding.
- [ ] Brush more often during heavy shedding seasons.
- [ ] Trim long hair around eyes, paws and rear as needed.
- [ ] Use the right brush type for short, long or double coats.

Bathing

- [ ] Confirm your pet's species actually needs bathing.
- [ ] Brush out the coat before getting your pet wet.
- [ ] Use lukewarm water and a pet-specific shampoo.
- [ ] Avoid the eyes and inside the ears while washing.
- [ ] Rinse thoroughly so no shampoo residue remains.
- [ ] Dry your pet and keep it warm until fully dry.

Nails and paws

- [ ] Handle paws gently to build comfort with trimming.
- [ ] Trim small amounts and avoid the quick.
- [ ] Keep styptic powder nearby in case of a small cut.
- [ ] Check paw pads for cracks, debris or irritation.
- [ ] Reward your pet throughout to build a positive habit.
- [ ] Ask for help if you are unsure about trimming.
  A professional groomer or your veterinarian can demonstrate safe nail care.

Ears, eyes and teeth

- [ ] Check ears for redness, odor, debris or discharge.
- [ ] Clean only the visible area with a vet-recommended cleaner.
- [ ] Wipe gently around the eyes with a soft, damp cloth.

- [ ] Introduce tooth brushing slowly with pet-safe toothpaste.
- [ ] Offer dental chews or toys as a helpful supplement.
- [ ] Report persistent ear, eye or dental problems to your veterinarian.

Skin and health checks

- [ ] Feel for lumps, scabs or sore spots while grooming.
- [ ] Look for fleas, ticks or other parasites.
- [ ] Note changes in coat texture, shine or shedding.
- [ ] Watch for excessive scratching, licking or odor.
- [ ] Keep up routine veterinary care and parasite prevention.
- [ ] Track any changes to discuss at your next vet visit.
- [ ] Important: This is general information, not professional advice. Consult a professional groomer for breed-specific grooming and your veterinarian for skin, ear, dental or any health concerns.