

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.