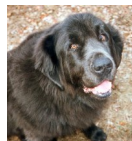


Older dogs can be suffering trying to chew on rotted teeth. Bacteria and toxins from infected teeth can affect their overall health. Examine your dog's teeth and gums. Do they look healthy? Have their eating habits changed? Head-shaking and facial swelling often indicates an infected tooth (or other issues) and can be painful. Bring your dog to the Veterinarian pronto.

Keep ears clean and dry. Check them at least once a month. If you smell any **"foul"** odors, or your dog scratches his ear excessively, rubs it against the floor, or tilts his head to one side, see your Veterinarian. Infections often settle deep within the ear canal and need to be treated immediately. Use a good otic solution (e.g. Novalsan, Oti-Cleanse, Malcetic Otic by Derma-Pet). Apply liberally into the ear canal. Massage the base of the ear gently. Clean accessible portion of ear with a CLEAN, dry terry cloth, cotton ball or pad. Leaving a cotton ball in the ear for a short time (if the dog allows this) helps to absorb excess liquid and wax. Wrapping a terry cloth around your finger to wipe outer portion of the ear only helps. **Do not poke** too deep with your finger or Q-tips. Dry the ear thoroughly. Allow your dog to "shake-out" the excess solution. Put the shake on cue by shaking your hand back and forth. Moisture breeds bacteria that can cause infection. Dusting with an antiseptic powder after cleaning is optional, but may help prevent infection.

Brushing: Begin with the appropriate brush for your dog's coat and texture. For example: use your slicker brush by gently parting and brushing the coat. Praise your dog for standing calmly and accepting this. Remember, breathe and focus on positive behavior while at the same time setting the boundaries. It's important to groom your dog and this is a task that can be pleasurable or drive you nuts! You want this to be a pleasing experience, without challenge!



I look marvelous!

Work in small sections and alternate between your brush and comb. Using the comb sideways, you can work small mats out of the coat. It helps to separate the mats with your fingers. Use your rake for tougher tangles. Use your scissors, or a mat splitter, carefully cutting downward, away from the skin, through tough mats.

Brush and comb down to the skin, not just the topcoat. Pick up the legs, ears, and tail. Don't forget underneath! On longer, double-coated breeds, brush the coat against the grain. This will lift and separate the coat.

This is a good time to check your dog's skin for lumps, bumps, warts, ticks, fleas and/or other possible skin conditions.

Check between the pads of the paws. Trim excess hair under the paws & around the pads. Use your finger to ease hair up from between their toes. Trim excess hair. If you prefer, trim unruly hair around ears and face. A thinning shear gives a more natural look on some ears and paws. Use your snub nosed scissors around the ears and eyes for safety. Use common sense and a keen eye to give your dog an overall **neat** appearance.

Grooming our dogs can be a pleasant, rewarding and bonding experience. The earlier you begin desensitizing the better. For many people, grooming is a work-of-art.

For practical purposes and overall well-being healthy grooming is a MUST. If you are multi-tasking, stressed out or simply choose to have someone groom your dog; GREAT! Search around, ask questions and ensure that this grooming professional, and the environment where your dog will likely spend several hours, is the best possible choice!



Grooming For Health & Self Esteem

Awareness
Education
Relationship
Well-being

[Dog Talk
Training and Wellness Sanctuary](#)

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Grooming is essential for Health and Self-Esteem. A well-groomed dog is healthier and aesthetically more pleasing to the eye. People love to muzzle nuzzle, hug, and walk proudly beside them. They naturally get more attention, which increases socialization and enhances self-esteem. A well-groomed dog looks better, feels better and walks proud!

Your dog's coat is his crowning glory! Gleaming hair with a lively, resilient bounce sets off your dog's fine qualities. A healthy, shiny coat (coat applicable texture) is an indicator of good health & nutrition.

Coat and skin care start from the inside with a complete and balanced diet. In addition to quality food products, exercise and regular veterinary wellness care ensure a healthy dog.

Brushing and combing are essential to a healthy and more. It eliminates mats and tangles, removes dead hair, dirt and burrs. Brushing distributes the natural oils, producing a healthy skin tone.

Establish a grooming routine as soon as your puppy or adult dog comes home. First, remember to breathe. Grooming your dog while stressed is inappropriate especially for puppies who cannot process these emotions.

Save your back by using a bench or table that does not wobble and is of adequate height and size. A rubber bath mat provides a non-slip surface for your dog. Plus, it resembles the conditions that your dog encounters with Professional groomers and veterinarians. Secure your dog on the table and let him know that this is grooming time. Be firm while making it pleasant. Be active, but not strained.

Never leave your dog unattended on the table. For larger breeds, a step-up stool will assist getting the dog on and off without injury. You want this to be a pleasant experience, so you will both enjoy doing it often!

Keep first grooming sessions short & sweet. Keep one hand on your dog for reassurance and to prevent scrambling for escape. Talk calmly, massage her ears and sides, all the way down the legs to each toe. Brush a little, praise and do it again. Do this several times a week (daily if time permits). You will discover that most dogs love the sensation of being brushed, if it is done gently, correctly and with appropriate tools.

Mouth / Ears / Nails: In addition to the above daily routine, gently touch (or massage is even better) your dog's mouth, rub the ears and again, the paws. Get him accustomed to having his mouth opened for inspection. This will assist in making toenail clipping, although not always a favorite past-time for dogs, a more pleasant one.

Nails should be clipped on a regular basis. Few dogs get enough exercise on rough terrain to keep their nails naturally worn down. Overlong nails spread the paws which is painful and, in extreme cases, crippling. Neglected nails can snag fabrics, rugs, human skin, and cause injury by getting torn off! How often you trim depends on the dog's activity level and necessity.

Use commercial dog nail clippers/files. Trim the nails as often as needed with a good "**quillotine**" or "**plier style**" clipper. The "**plier style**" clipper, with two cutting edges, work best on large and giant breed dogs.

As the nail grows in length, so does the blood supply. A vein runs about three-fourths of the way through the nail. Be careful not to cut this vein called the "**quick**". It is difficult to trim a long nail to its normal length, at one time, without causing bleeding. Trim a safe amount and repeat trimming at 7 to 10 day intervals. The blood supply should recede. Gradually reduce the nails to their normal and safe length.

In white nails, you can see this fine pink line. **In black nails,** trim a little at a time. A circular pattern that resembles the bark of a tree appears when you are getting close to the quick. On the back of the paw, under the nail is a meaty like section. This is the blood supply. If you misjudge, don't panic. You will only upset the dog. Apply a "**styptic powder or gel (my favorite)**" immediately. Stay calm. The bleeding will stop. **Remember to cut the dewclaws,** which grow above the paws on the inner leg. These never have a chance of being worn down. They can curl around and cut into the skin.

Brushing your dog's teeth alleviates tartar build-up and promotes healthy gums. A dog's lifespan ranges from 10 to 15 years. If you didn't have your teeth cleaned or brushed for that amount of time, how would your teeth look, if you had any left? How would your breath smell? It would be pretty grim.

Adult dogs accumulate tartar deposits along the gum line of their teeth. This crusty material should be periodically removed or your dog will have foul breath, receding gums and may lose teeth prematurely.

Dog biscuits and dry kibble can help keep teeth and gums healthy. Nylabones, Gumabones and hard cow bones help. However, you need to check the teeth on a regular basis. Brushing and scaling on your own is a choice. Depending on the dog, daily is great, weekly is good, and monthly is okay. Otherwise, have your Veterinarian do it professionally with an ultrasonic cleaner (*the best*).

Using a solution of warm water, baking soda and a little peroxide on a terry cloth wrapped around your finger or on a soft toothbrush, brush in a circular motion (Mentadent works well or buy a pet toothpaste formulated just-for-dogs! ⇒