

# Grooming



All dogs need to be groomed but the quantity and frequency will vary greatly depending upon the dog's coat type. Grooming is required to keep the dog's coat in good condition but it is also a good way to bond with your dog and it can be combined with physical checks to ensure that the dog is in good health. It can be a great calm interaction between your child and dog.

Professional dog groomers offer additional services such as clipping.

The equipment you use will depend upon your dog's coat type. As a basic rule the main equipment is:



## Basic sequence

1. Run the **Zoom Groom** through the dog's coat, with and against the lay of the coat. Use long, firm, vigorous strokes all over the body except the face and tail.

### Purpose:

- To check the dogs body for any abnormalities of the skin and coat.
  - Circulation is stimulated hence increasing the supply of blood to the skin and muscles.
  - Hair follicles are stimulated, promoting growth of coat.
  - Any dead hairs are loosened.
  - Acts as massage – keeps skin toned.
  - **Excellent for dog - child interaction and for children that may be heavy handed.**
2. **Brush** with the lay of the coat. Use long, firm strokes all over the body except the face. Brush ear flaps – lay flat in palm of hand shielding the face. It may be necessary to alter the firmness of the strokes depending on your dog's sensitivity.

### Purpose:

- To smooth the coat down and bring up a shine by encouraging natural oils up through the coat.
  - To remove any loose hair.
  - To remove any dirt or dust.
3. **Comb** with the lay of the coat all areas except the face, taking great care around ears, abdomen and legs. Position the comb so the teeth lie flat against the coat.

### Purpose:

- To remove and prevent matting and tangling.
- To remove unwanted undercoat.
- To remove the majority of loose hair.



## Dog health

One of the easiest ways to monitor your dog's health is to know what a healthy dog looks like, making it more likely that you will notice any changes which may indicate ill-health. Regular physical examinations will help you to learn what is normal for your dog. If you are concerned about your dog's health, consult a qualified veterinary professional.

### Basic physical examination

<b>Eyes</b>	Clear, bright, inner eyelids, mid pink colour. No discharge except occasionally clear or grey, occurs after windy days and is the eyes' natural way of getting rid of dust etc.
<b>Ears</b>	Clean skin, no redness or inflammation. Normal dog ear wax is yellow/amber/light brown and not particularly visible. No strong smell. No hair matting.
<b>Nose</b>	Wetness is not a key health indicator, but watch for a hot or very dry nose, especially with cracking. An occasional drip is normal, especially after lots of sniffing. Any discharge is abnormal.
<b>Mouth / teeth</b>	Teeth should be whole, no cracks, minimum to no plaque/tartar; gums should be smooth and shiny, with no inflammation or foreign bodies, and coloured mid pink/brown/black.
<b>Coat / skin / abdomen / body</b>	Look for shiny coat, no lumps, redness, bald patches, ticks, or foreign bodies. The skin underneath should appear clean and pale pink or, in the case of some black dogs, a bluey black.
<b>Sheath / vulva</b>	Clean, no discharge or spots.
<b>Legs</b>	Should be no swelling around joints .
<b>Feet / nails / pads</b>	Fur should be very similar to body colour, any brownness is saliva staining. Pads should have an even surface with no cracks or calluses. Check between toes for any foreign bodies especially after free running in long grass. Nails should be kept short (roughly just off the ground when standing), including the dew claw.

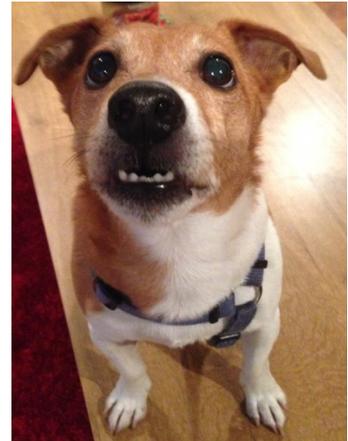
## Neutering

Neutering is the best way to prevent unwanted litters. Preventing unwanted litters is imperative to responsible dog ownership. Your dog should be assessed individually by a professional before deciding if neutering is the right option for you, as it can have a significant impact on behaviour and development if not done appropriately. You can find information on when/if it is the right time to neuter your dog on the APBC Information Sheet page [http://www.apbc.org.uk/info/APBC Behaviour Advice Information Sheets](http://www.apbc.org.uk/info/APBC_Behaviour_Advice_Information_Sheets). Contact your vet for more advice.

## Preventative treatments

Preventative treatments are to help keep your dog and family healthy, as well as an opportunity for your dog to get regular health checks from a vet. As a general guideline:

- Vaccinations: annual booster vaccination after initial vaccination course; scheduling varies per vaccination so talk to your vet for advice.
- Flea treatments: every 2 months, or as advised by vet.
- Worming treatments: every 3 months, or as advised by vet.



## Child development

- It is very important to get your dog accustomed to being handled, checked and groomed, ready for visits to the vet or groomers. Introduce all handling in a gentle, gradual and positive way. Reward your dog as you go along.
- This can be incorporated with helping children gain confidence with having their hair brushed, their nails trimmed etc. Either through involving children with the activities where safe to do so, or through social stories incorporating their dog and why their dog is learning to have their hair brushed or nails trimmed.
- Through regularly visiting the vets/groomers, even if your dog isn't undergoing treatment, just popping in, giving your dog a few treats and going home again can help build a positive association with visiting. Again if children become anxious visiting the doctors, hair dressers or dentist, involving them with visiting can be very beneficial.

