

Learning To Brush My Pet



While cockleburs, foxtails, fleas, and ticks are the bane of the country dog... Over bathing, coat dryness and neglect of a pet's coat can befall the city pet. But, good news! Both can benefit from a regimen of brushing and combing. When that cute little puppy arrived at your home, you probably went and purchased a new dish, bed, collar, and possibly a brush and comb. Although the bed, dish, and collar are still in use, the comb and brush are probably gathering dust somewhere in the closet. It may not be your fault that your first attempts at combing and brushing were unsuccessful. It could be that you didn't know the fine points of handling your pet during brushing. Or more likely, you purchased inappropriate equipment, making your efforts unsuccessful and tiresome.

Good Equipment is the Key



Poor equipment is often the reason pet owners fail to give their pets once or twice weekly brushing. For success in coat maintenance, throw out your worn brush with bent or missing bristles. A gentle slicker brush is needed for basic grooming. These brushes contain hundreds of soft, short bent wires mounted in a firm rubber backing. A good quality brush won't hurt your pet. Another essential piece of equipment is the comb. A solid metal comb with combination coarse and medium teeth will do nicely. We carry both the brush and the comb here for sale for your convenience.

Brushing for Pet's Health

Brushing is essential to a healthy, glowing coat. It terminates mats and tangles, removes dead hair, dirt and burrs, and distributes the natural oils, producing a healthy skin tone.

The Right Work Surface

Where should you work on your pet? The floor is your pet's playground and should be used as a last resort. A sturdy table or the top of your washer or dryer will offer a solid surface and a comfortable working height for you. A rubber mat provides a non-slip surface for your pet. Working on a surface like this teaches your pet that you are serious about its care. Plus, it resembles the conditions that your pet encounters in the grooming shop.

Controlling Your Pet

You must have a serious attitude while working on your pet. A firm "NO" should suffice when your pet bites at the brush or comb, or tries to charm you with playful antics. Begin by working in one area. Don't allow your pet to twist and turn as you "hit or miss" in your brushing attempts. Your pet will definitely win at that game, and you'll exhaust yourself while vowing to never "brush" again.

Mats, Tangles, and Burrs... Oh My

Mats, tangles and burrs should be worked in small sections, separating with your fingers if necessary. Begin with the coarse teeth of the comb. After the coarse teeth slide through an area of fur with no catches, use the medium teeth to finish. Serious mats are best left to your groomer's expertise.

The Brushing Begins

Take your pet's head in your hand and begin by gently, but thoroughly, combing the whiskers, ears and head. Look your pet in the eye and say a firm "no" if it begins to misbehave. Through this exchange, you can gain an understanding with your pet that will last through the brushing session. It is important for you to be in control so your puppy will listen to you. Once they have decided that they are "the boss" it is hard for you to ever gain that position back. Now move to the legs. The legs are probably the most neglected part of the home grooming process. Alternate the comb and brush operation so you can locate the little pin mats that quickly turn into big mats. Brush up or down, but work in small sections and work down to the skin. A serious fault of the pet owner grooming is the overworking of the top coat and neglecting the hair nearest the skin. Lift the leg towards you to get at the inner leg. Proceed to the tail and the back.

Finishing

Terriers and long-coated breeds should be finishing by combing in the direction of the hair growth. A fuller appearance can be achieved on Poodle, Bichon and Bedlington by brushing against the hair growth.

What's the Alternative?

Poor coat condition usually results in a shorter clip on your pet and a larger grooming bill. If you find that you just don't have the time or the desire to brush your pet, more frequent professional grooming is recommended to prevent matting and tangling. A shorter, more manageable clip on

your pet may be another alternative. We can assist you in making the best decision for you and your pet.

How Often Should My Pet Be Groomed?

The duration of time between professional grooming can vary greatly between dogs of the same breed. Coat condition, hair type, density, and climate are just some of the variables. A lot depends on how much home grooming you are willing to offer to your pet.