

Top tips when shampooing your pet

Prepare

1. Wear clothes you don't mind becoming wet or perhaps bleached or stained.
2. To help your pet feel comfortable, ensure the bathing area has a non-slip surface (a towel or mat may be used). If using a bathtub, leave the drain plug open.
3. Be sure to follow your veterinarian's instructions and read the product label before use. Never use a human shampoo or dish soap on your pet as your pet's skin is very different from a human's skin.

Wet & Shampoo

4. Ensure that the water is a mild temperature. If the water is too hot, it can make the pet uncomfortable as well as strip essential oils from the skin and may result in dry, uncomfortable, and/or itchy skin.
5. Using a handheld shower will help remove the surface debris and dirt as well as thoroughly wet the hair coat and skin. Using cotton gloves or a wash cloth will be useful for the hard-to-reach areas (such as between the toes).
6. If using a medicated shampoo that requires prolonged contact time, begin timing as soon as the pet has been lathered. Apply and lather shampoo at the most affected areas first, to allow those areas the longest contact time with the medication. If your veterinarian has advised, you can wash the face, but keep your pet from getting the product into their nose, mouth or eyes during shampooing. Use of a timer or listening to about three songs on your radio may help you keep time. If your veterinarian has prescribed an ear cleanser, use this time to clean the ears.

Dry

7. After rinsing, hand dry with a towel. Do not use a hair dryer, as heat over-dries the skin and may lead to increased itching.
8. Added benefits to bathing your pet: Hands on to feel for any lumps or bumps or physical changes. It is also a wonderful bonding experience for you and your pet.

Veterinarian's instructions

Bathe ____ times per week.
Recheck appointment in ____ weeks.

Your veterinarian may also recommend:

Ceramides:

____ General Cleansing:
____ DermaLyte® Shampoo

Greasy or Dry, Rough Skin:

____ DermaBenSs® Shampoo

Anti-Itch:

____ DermAllay Shampoo and Spray Conditioner
____ MalAcetic ULTRA® Otic Cleanser

Antibacterial/Antifungal with Ceramides:

____ MiconoHex+Triz® Shampoo, Spray Conditioner, Mousse, and Wipes

Fatty Acids:

____ EicosaCaps® Omega 3 & 6 Capsules
____ EicosaDerm® Omega 3 Liquid
____ Eicosa3FF® SnipCaps Omega 3 Free Fatty Acid Capsules

Supplements:

____ Redonyl® Ultra Soft Chews for Dogs
____ Redonyl® Ultra Feline Powder

Dechra also has other medicated products that are available with your veterinarian's prescription for your pet's specific skin condition. These include ear cleansers along with medicated spray conditioners and wipes, which are ideal for in-between baths for dogs and a bath substitute for cats.



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Bathing your pet

Bathing is a necessary part of your pet's health. A general cleansing and grooming shampoo can help maintain or restore your pet's skin health and coat. Medicated shampoos are available to aid in the management of a variety of skin and hair coat issues. In addition, products that contain ingredients such as ceramides help introduce more lipids into the skin, helping it do its job as a barrier: keeping good things in, like moisture and lipids, and bad things out, like allergens and other pathogens. Your veterinarian can advise you on how frequently your pet should be bathed and which types of shampoos, spray conditioners, mousses, ear cleansers and/or wipes are best to use on your pet. Because there are many differences between human and animal skin, products that are good for your hair and skin may not be good for your pet.

Your veterinarian might also recommend an oral Fatty Acid (FAs) as a supplement to your pet's diet. FAs help restore necessary oils and moisture to your pet's skin.



How to shampoo your pet

Follow your veterinarian's instructions on when and how to use the recommended shampoo. Make sure to ask your veterinarian or their technical staff any questions you may have.



Thoroughly wet the coat and skin surface with clean water that has a mild/moderate temperature. Water that is too hot or too cold can be irritating to your pet and make the bathing experience unpleasant for them. Make sure that plenty of water reaches the surface of the skin.



For general cleansing, apply shampoo at several points on the neck and along the back. If using a medicated shampoo, apply shampoo to the most affected areas first to allow maximum contact time.



Gently and progressively massage it into the coat and skin all over the pet, using enough shampoo to create a good lather (adding water where necessary). Take care not to get the shampoo into the eyes, nose and mouth. Be sure to get those hard to reach areas like inside the fore and hind legs, as well as skin folds.



Shampoo each paw making sure to get in-between each digit (toe) and on/around the pad. Shampoo the ear flaps too; avoid getting shampoo or excessive water in the ear canals. And don't forget to bathe under the tail.



Work the lather well down to the skin. Animal skin harbors organisms that cause infection. Pay close attention to ear flaps, lip folds, skin folds, and areas that are affected most. Leave shampoo on the pet for the time recommended by your veterinarian or as indicated on the label. Most medicated shampoos are recommended for 5 - 10 minutes of contact time for best results.



After the shampoo has been on the hair coat and skin for the recommended contact time (generally 5 - 10 minutes), thoroughly rinse your pet with clean water. Use large amounts of clean, mild temperature water.



Allow your pet to shake itself, and then finish drying with a towel. Do not use a hair dryer. Avoid leaving your pet in cold temperatures while their skin and hair coat are wet. Comb or brush through long-haired pets, being careful on/around affected areas.