



Medicated Shampoo Instructions

Why This Process Matters

As part of your dog's treatment plan, we may recommend bathing your dog with a regular or hypoallergenic shampoo **before** applying a medicated shampoo.

Think of medicated shampoo like a prescription cream or ointment. You wouldn't apply a treatment to dirty skin – you'd clean the area first. The same principle applies here! Skipping the cleansing step can reduce the effectiveness of the medicated shampoo, delay healing, or even lead to treatment failure. Especially for chronic or stubborn skin issues, every step counts!

Step 1: Start with a Regular (Non-Medicated) Shampoo

Dogs naturally build up layers of oils, dust, dander, pollen, and other debris on their skin and coat. These layers act like a barrier that can block medicated shampoos from reaching the skin.

- Use a gentle or hypoallergenic shampoo unless otherwise directed.
- Lather thoroughly, making sure to clean down to the skin. Use a rubber curry brush or Kong Zoom Groom to gently scrub off dead skin cells and other debris.
- Rinse completely with lukewarm water.

Step 2: Apply the Medicated Shampoo

After cleansing with regular shampoo, the skin is primed to absorb the active ingredients in the medicated shampoo more effectively.

- Apply the medicated shampoo according to the instructions on the bottle, unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian.
- Be sure to massage it all the way down through the coat/fur and into the skin.
- **Leave it on for the full contact time**, usually **5–10 minutes** (timing matters!).
- Rinse thoroughly to prevent residue buildup or irritation. Even if you think you have rinsed enough... rinse again!

Tips for Success

- Use lukewarm water (never hot) to avoid irritating the skin.
- Avoid getting shampoo in your dog's eyes or ears.
 - You can use sterile saline flush or eye wash before and after the bath to prevent scratches during the bath, and flush out any shampoo that may have dripped on/near their eyes.
 - Do NOT place cotton balls in the ears! This will create a trap for moisture even during the bath. If needed, clean ears thoroughly after bathing.
- Use a timer for the medicated shampoo soak time—it makes a big difference.
- Pat dry thoroughly with a clean towel and/or use a NON-HEATED blow dryer.

Questions?

We're to help! If you're unsure which shampoo to use, how often to bathe your dog, or how long to continue treatment, please contact us at **(760) 228-1474**.