



Grooming Tips for Your Shih Tzu: Keeping That Signature Coat Healthy & Beautiful

Shih Tzus are known for their luxurious coats, sweet expressions, and charming personalities—but that gorgeous fur does require regular care. Whether your Shih Tzu wears a long flowing coat

or a shorter “puppy cut,” proper grooming is essential for their comfort, health, and overall happiness.

Here are some tried-and-true tips to help you keep your Shih Tzu looking (and feeling) their best.

1. Brush Regularly — Even With Short Hair

Brushing is the foundation of Shih Tzu grooming. Their hair grows continuously and can mat quickly if neglected.

Tips:

- Brush daily for long coats and 2–3 times per week for shorter trims
- Use a slicker brush and follow with a metal comb to catch hidden tangles
- Always brush gently, starting at the ends and working toward the skin

Regular brushing helps prevent painful mats and keeps shedding under control.

2. Keep the Face Clean & Dry

Shih Tzus have short noses and expressive eyes, which means their faces need a little extra attention.

Tips:

- Wipe the face daily with a soft, damp cloth
- Gently clean under the eyes to prevent tear staining
- Keep hair trimmed away from the eyes or tied into a topknot

A clean face isn’t just about looks—it helps prevent irritation and infection.

3. Bathe on a Consistent Schedule

Bathing keeps your Shih Tzu’s coat clean, soft, and free of odors—but too much bathing can dry out their skin.



Tips:

- Bathe every 3–4 weeks, or sooner if they get especially dirty
- Use a gentle, dog-specific shampoo and conditioner
- Rinse thoroughly—leftover product can cause itching

Always dry the coat completely to avoid damp skin and tangles.

4. Don't Forget the Ears

Floppy ears can trap moisture and debris, making ear care essential.

Tips:

- Check ears weekly for redness, odor, or buildup
- Clean gently with a vet-approved ear cleaner
- Never insert anything deep into the ear canal

Healthy ears mean fewer infections and a happier pup.

5. Nail Trims Matter More Than You Think

Long nails can affect posture and cause discomfort when walking.

Tips:

- Trim nails every 3–4 weeks
- If you hear clicking on the floor, it's time for a trim
- Use proper dog nail clippers or a grinder

If you're nervous, a groomer or vet can help until you're comfortable.



6. Choose the Right Haircut for Your Lifestyle

Not every Shih Tzu needs a long show coat. The best haircut is one that works for you and your dog.

Popular options include:

- Puppy cut: Low-maintenance and practical
- Teddy bear cut: Soft, rounded, and adorable
- Topknot styles: Functional and classic

Whatever you choose, consistency is key.

7. Start Grooming Early & Keep It Positive

If you're grooming a puppy, early exposure makes a world of difference.

Tips:

- Introduce brushing, baths, and nail trims gradually
- Use treats and praise to create positive associations
- Keep sessions short and calm

A relaxed dog makes grooming easier for everyone.

Final Thoughts

Grooming your Shih Tzu isn't just about appearance—it's an important part of their overall health and well-being. With regular care, patience, and the right tools, grooming can become a bonding experience you both enjoy.

A well-groomed Shih Tzu is a happy, confident, and comfortable companion—and that's what every pup deserves.