



PREPARE TO CARE

Home grooming and co-operative care workbook

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AN INTRODUCTION INTO HOME GROOMING

This workbook has been designed to support you through your journey into home grooming for your dog. in it, i will talk you through:

- tools and equipment
- how to prepare your dog for handling
- how to set up an appropriate environment
- safety
- brushes to use
- bathing techniques
- matt removals
- nail trimming

if done correctly, grooming can release positive endorphins in both the guardian and dog, reducing cortisol and creating a perfect bonding experience.

It is about caring for your dogs physical wellbeing without compromising their emotional one; and who better to care for your dog than you.



AN INTRODUCTION INTO HOME GROOMING

Why bother?

The average dog lives for up to 15 years and most will be groomed every 6 to 8 weeks. That's approximately 260 hours

If we're not able to identify when a dog is becoming stressed and do something about it, we risk them regularly entering a state of chronic stress which can cause long term damage such as reduced immune cell production, stunted skeletal growth, poor sleep quality and reduced tissue healing.

Our dogs put so much faith and trust into us to look after them. Isn't it at least worth trying to give them some choice in their welfare care?

Groomers are often put under so much pressure to achieve a perfect looking groom when it shouldn't be about that. It should simply be making sure the dogs coat and skin are in a good and healthy condition. For some dogs, the grooming salon just isn't an option. there are too many stressors and triggers, and so the kindest thing to do is groom your dog at home.



BE PAIN AWARE

Pain is the biggest cause of grooming issues

In my experience, pain is the biggest cause of behaviour problems experienced at the groomers.

Being asked to stand for long periods of times when you have arthritis, lifting the leg of a dog with dislocating patellas, ear infections, tooth ache, gastro issues - all play a huge factor in a dog disliking grooming

Keep records on your dog. Note down any changes in the fur, problem areas on the skin, lumps bumps etc. The coat is usually the first give a way of a problem.

Issues could include, but aren't limited to:

- muscular or fascia pain
- hormone imbalances
- skin disorders
- underlying health conditions
- Coat damage

Changes include:

- Fur pattern changes
- Greasy areas
- Different texture



In a study conducted by Daniel S. Mills, Fergus M. Coutts and Kevin J. McPeake, of 100 dogs referred to them for behavioural consults, Mills found 75% had suspected physical problems causing pain/discomfort and Coutts found 58% (Mills et al., 2023). When you take all the statistics into consideration, the probability of undiagnosed pain in dogs is highly likely and could well be having a significant impact on a dogs tolerance when being handled.

Having a good understanding of common diseases and injuries is extremely beneficial. You don't need to be an expert, but knowing at least some of the symptoms will help you massively.

If you suspect your dog is in pain, or is suffering from ill health consult your vet before starting any form of training or grooming

GROOMING KIT

check list

- LickMat
- Treat tub
- Yoga mat
- Cushion
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Jug for water
- Aquazorb towels
- Microfibre towels
- Drying robe
- Brushes (TBC)
- Scratchboard
- Millers forge nail clippers
- Acrylic nail file
- Nail dremel
- Trimmex



BRUSHES

The brush you require will be dependent on the coat type of your dog; however I would always recommend having the following:



A rubber massage brush - Great for in the bath when applying shampoo. Also good for short haired breeds that are shedding (e.g. labrador)



A bristle brush for in the bath with conditioner and even when drying to straighten or position the hair.



The pin brush, a must have for any long haired breed to prevent matting and reduce static



A paddle brush - another one good for brushing whilst in the bath to start easing out knots and tangles



A metal comb - To make sure you've got right to the skin. The space required between the teeth will depend on the thickness and type of hair your dog has, the thicker the coat the wider the teeth. You can also use this as a guide tool when cutting out knots!



A rubber styling brush - These to be incredible for working on tougher matts but also on double coated breeds during shedding season

SHAMPOOS AND CONDITIONERS

The primary purpose of a shampoo is to clean the dogs skin and coat, removing debris and re-distributing oils. Traditional shampoo formulations are made up of surfactants (cleansing agents, foaming agents and conditioners) as well as thickeners, softeners, sequestering agents, preservatives, fragrance and sometimes opacifiers and colouring additives.

Some of the most commonly seen ingredients are as follows:

- Aqua - water, the base of all shampoos
- Salicylic acid - increases skin absorption of all ingredients in a product so you'd want to make sure when it is present the other ingredients are safe and all natural. It can help to unclog pores and help with dandruff.
- Sodium Laureth Sulfate - A synthetic cleaner and known skin irritant that has links to organ system toxicity and contamination concerns by ethylene oxide and 1,4-dioxane. It works by collecting water and grease which is then spread across the coat before being rinsed out.
- Glycerin - A by-product of the process of saponification, it is a natural humectant.
- Cocamidopropyl Betaine - A synthetic surfactant associated with irritation & allergic contact dermatitis. Reactions could be due to the ingredient itself or impurities.
- Sodium chloride - Generally regarded as safe, sodium chloride is salt
- Chlorhexidine - A fast acting, broad spectrum antimicrobial agent, with a low potential for causing skin reactions that can continue to kill bacteria on the skin up to 24 hours after use.
- Paraben - Parabens are a class of preservatives or fragrances that are not planet friendly (ecotoxic) with strong ties to hormone (endocrine system) disruption.
- Citric acid - Citric acid may be used to adjust the pH of a product to make it more neutral.
- Sodium citrate - Generally regarded as safe, it is used as a pH adjuster and water softener. Usually produced from fruits, through yeast fermentation, or even by solvent extraction. Sodium citrate is then produced by neutralising citric acid with sodium hydroxide.
- Sodium benzoate - There are two sources of sodium benzoate - natural from fruit and lab synthesized. It is an effective preservative that prevents the growth of molds and bacteria. When sodium benzoate is formulated with vitamin C or citric acid, it may form benzene. (a known carcinogen). This reaction is pH dependent and very unlikely but is noted.

SHAMPOOS AND CONDITIONERS

Ideally you want a product that is as natural as possible with little to no fragrance. Despite the popularity of fragrant shampoos, we need to remember that dogs have around 300 million olfactory receptors compared to our 5 million and therefore highly scented products are likely to cause significant discomfort and therefore negative associations.

The order of the ingredients on a shampoo bottle is also important. They are listed by quantity, and therefore the higher in the list they are the higher percentage it makes up of the overall product. It's especially important to bare this in mind when you consider that the more powerful the surfactant is, the higher the chances the shampoo will remove the outer layer of the epidermis and cause a skin irritation. Shampoo must always be thoroughly rinsed out to avoid irritation.

A common misconception with shampoo, it that the more suds it produces, the better it cleans. This is in fact incorrect, and the foam is simply an added ingredient to make the product appear more luxurious.

The importance of conditioners

Regardless of skin type, using conditioner after shampooing your dog is an essential step in maintaining a healthy and well-groomed coat. While shampoo cleans the fur by removing dirt, oils, and debris, it can also strip away natural moisture, leaving the coat dry and the skin prone to irritation. Conditioner helps to restore hydration, making the fur softer, shinier, and easier to manage. It also helps to reduce tangles and matting, which is especially important for long-haired breeds. Additionally, conditioner can provide a protective barrier against environmental factors such as dust and allergens, promoting overall skin and coat health. By incorporating conditioner into your dog's bathing routine, you ensure their coat remains strong, smooth, and comfortable

The amount of conditioner you use is dependant on the dogs skin condition. An overly dry coat would need more conditioner than a greasier coat.

Some conditioners can be left on the coat without being rinsed however, it's important to read the label properly.

SCISSORS AND CLIPPERS

Scissors and clippers are very much individual, and what suits one person may not suit another. My recommendations however are:

- The CliplT Quattro
- Wahl Bravura Cordless Animal Clipper (this has an adjustable blade length)
- VKTY pet hair shaving machine (ideal for between the pads and small areas)



Clipper blades need to be regularly oiled and should be sterilised after every use. You will also need to make sure the blade is sharpened when required. Failure to do this will result in the clippers overheating, catching on the coat and increase the risk of injury and irritation.

A professional groomer will have a wide selection of scissors, but for the purpose of home grooming for welfare needs I would stick to:

- straight scissors
- thinning scissors
- bullnose (safety) scissors



Just like clipper blades, scissors need to be oiled, cleaned and sharpened regularly.

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS WITH CO-OPERATIVE CARE

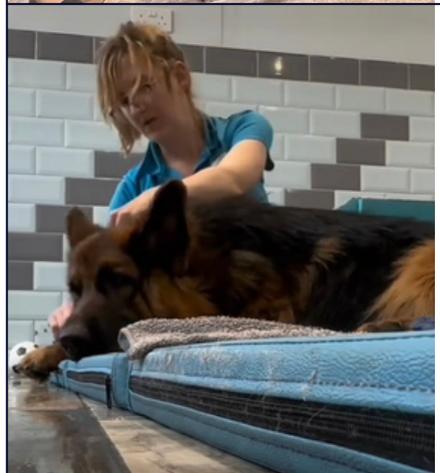
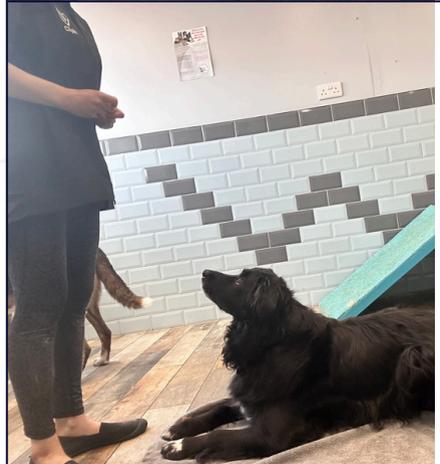
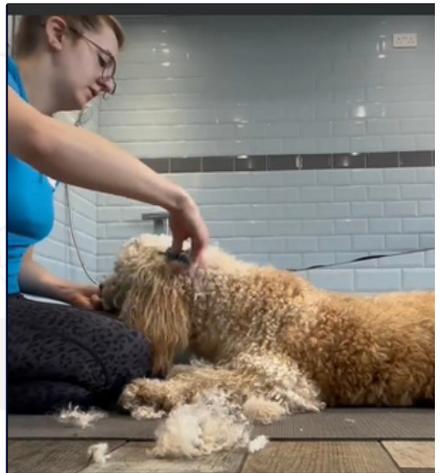
A few years ago, I attended a seminar by a fantastic behaviourist called Chirag Patel, where he showed videos of how he trained captive wildlife such as cheetahs and dolphins to offer body parts for routine health care. No restraints, no tranquilizers and most importantly the animals appeared calm and relaxed. Ever since then, I've become passionate about co-operative care and husbandry training for dogs. I strongly believe if wild animals can be taught to accept health and grooming procedures, then we should be able to do the same with our domesticated dogs!

But why bother when there are ways of just getting things done?

Majority of dogs don't like being groomed, but some can tolerate it better than others. For those who really struggle in a grooming environment, if we don't we risk them regularly entering a state of chronic stress which can cause long term damage such as reduced immune cell production, stunted skeletal growth, poor sleep quality and reduced tissue healing.

The average dog will spend around 260 hours of their life being groomed, don't we owe it to them to make it a positive experience?

Teaching these behaviours will help make grooming your dog so much easier for both of you.



PREPARATION

01

STEP ONE - THE ENVIRONMENT

Consider the five senses...

1. Sight - you want somewhere without many distractions; also bare in mind that dogs can only see in shades of blue and yellow so if your planning to use a table or matt, make sure it's a colour they can see
2. Smell - dogs have an extremely sensitive sense of smell and so try to avoid using anything highly scented (shampoos, conditioners etc)
3. Sound - ideally you want somewhere that is quiet with little risk of sudden noises that may unnerve your dog
4. Touch - you want any surface you're asking your dog to be on to be stable and non-slip to prevent injury. You also need to make sure you have the correct brushes for their skin and coat type (more on this later)
5. Taste - Treats are essential! Would you work for no pay?

02

STEP TWO - EQUIPMENT

Make sure you have the following...

- A matt or platform
- A small treat tub/bowl
- Lickimats
- A cushion/blanket
- A scratch board/pad
- A coat appropriate brush
- Safety scissors
- Clippers
- Nail clippers/electric file

03

STEP THREE - PATIENCE

True co-operative care training takes time and patience. You have to earn your dogs trust and respect, but I promise you once you have it, the relationship you have with them will be so rewarding.

SETTLE ON A MATT



- 1** Invite your dog onto the chosen platform or mat

Reward them simply for stepping onto the mat



- 2** Reward them for remaining calm and still
To start with you may need to give a few treats one after the other to encourage your dog to stay on the mat. Gradually you can decrease the treats and reward after a few seconds. Always build up slowly!



- 3** Add in movement
Once your dog is comfortable staying on the mat for a duration of time. Start moving your hand around slowly. If they remain calm, reward but if they stand up or move away then you must stop and go back to just having them settle on the mat.



- 4** Introduce equipment
Once your dog is comfortable with your hand touching them whilst on the mat, you can progress to using equipment. But don't forget, if your dog steps off the mat you must stop immediately. Don't chase, simply wait until they return before starting up again.

THE BUCKET GAME



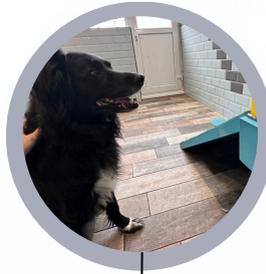
1 Introduce the bucket

Put your chosen rewards into the bucket and hold it out to the side. Each time your dog looks at the bucket give them a treat from it. Put the bucket on the ground or a raised surface and again reward the dog for calmly looking at it



2 Increase the wait time between treats

Wait a few seconds before giving your dog the treat. The dog is allowed to look around between focusing on the bucket – remember this is a game of choice and a conversation between you and them. If they choose to look or walk away simply wait for them to reengage



3 Add in movement

Once your dog is happy looking at the bucket for a few seconds, start moving your hand towards their side (but do not touch) whilst they're focused on the bucket. If they stay focused on the bucket give them the reward. If they look at your hand or away from the bucket stop immediately



4 Introduce equipment

Once they're comfortable with your hand you can progress to using a brush, first bringing the brush towards the body and eventually brushing. The key to success with this is little and often. Never rush to the next stage and only progress when your dog is comfortable

LAY ON SIDE



1 Ask your dog to lay down as normal

Most dogs can be lured into a down position by lowering a treat from their nose to the ground



2 Lure onto side position

Place a treat under your dogs nose and then slowly move it towards their shoulder so they need to start rolling over to get it. Here you can introduce your cue word "side" or "tummy"



3 Increase duration

To encourage your dog to stay on their side, drop lots of treats right in front of their nose



4 Introduce handling

When your dog is happy on their side, you can start practicing holding their feet, brushing their tummy etc. Remember - slow and steady and if your dog shows signs of stress or gets up then stop

STAND ON CUE



1 Get them into position

If your dog is in a sit position, place a treat on their nose and slowly bring it away encouraging them to follow it



2 Reward and give a verbal cue

Once they are stood, reward with treat and introduce your chosen cue word



3 Increase duration

Start by giving a number of treats consecutively, and then gradually reduce them with a longer time in between.



4 Introduce handling

Once your dog is comfortable stood for a few seconds, start moving around and then return to the front and reward

CHIN REST



1 Start with a cushion on your lap

Place a treat just onto the cushion at a distance to lure your dog into lowering their head onto it. As soon as their head touches the cushion reward them with the treat



2 Build on duration

Gradually increase the duration they have to hold their head onto the cushion before giving the reward



3 Introduce the required behaviour

Once your dog is confident in keeping their head on the cushion you can start to introduce new behaviours such as brushing their face. Start by lowering your hand towards the side of your dogs face whilst their head is on the cushion. Once they are comfortable with this, do the same thing but start gentle touching their face



4 Introduce equipment

Gradually start bringing a brush towards your dogs face. Providing they're still happy with their head on the cushion you can start to gently brush. Don't forget if your dog lifts their head off the cushion you must stop immediately and wait for them to settle.

SCRATCHBOARD



1 Introduce the board

Place the scratch board on your lap and hold a treat at the top. Wait for your dog to offer a paw or try to step onto the scratch board to get the treat. Once their paw comes into contact with the board, mark and give the reward



2 Encourage them to scratch

Once they've mastered touching the scratch board you want them to almost do a digging motion. Keep hold of the treat until your dog scratches multiple times on the board. To start with reward after two scratches, then three, then four, and so on



3 Think outside the box

If your dog doesn't want to use a scratchboard, you could try putting the sandpaper on an existing toy they need to scratch to move and get the reward.

1.2.3 GAME



1 Get comfortable

Encourage your dog to lay, stand or sit on their mat or grooming station. This game is best used in conjunction with either the mat protocol, the bucket game or a chin rest.



2 Start counting

If you want to check your dogs ears for example, get your dog to lay down with their chin on a pillow. Count to 3, and then give the reward.



3 Introduce actions to the numbers

As you count, start adding actions to the numbers, e.g. 1 - move your hand towards their ear, 2 - lift the ear up, 3 - look in the ear and then mark and reward



4 Repeat for different behaviours

This method can be used for a number of things, including nails, brushing etc. Just remember to break things down and always give the reward on 3!

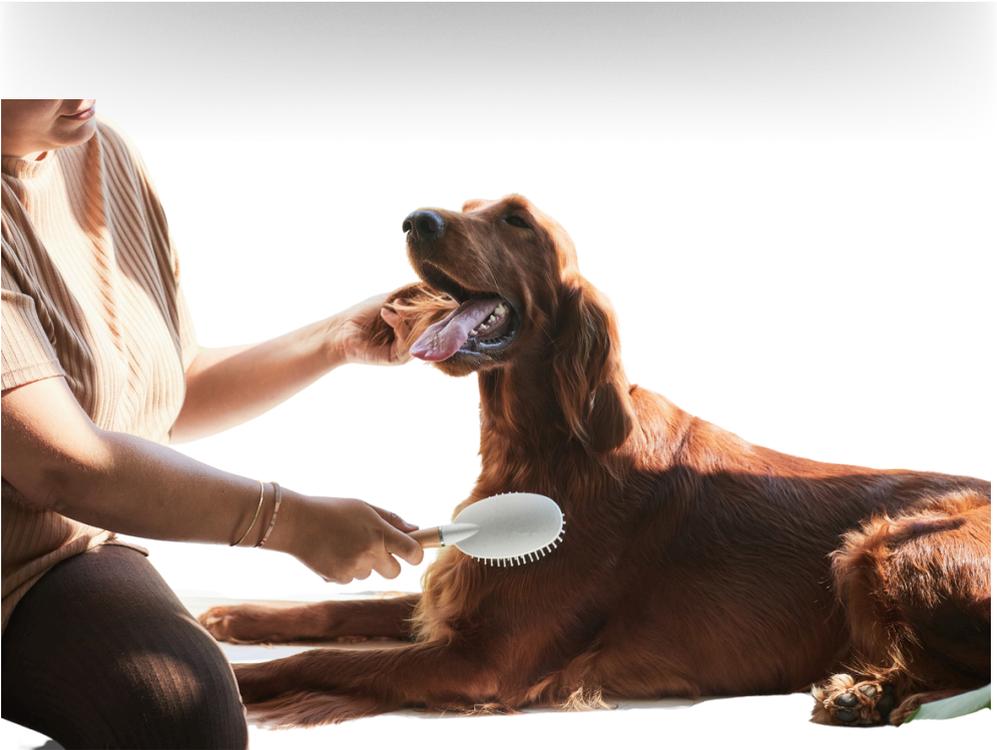
INTRODUCING EQUIPMENT

Once you've mastered the co-operative care techniques, you can start introducing equipment.

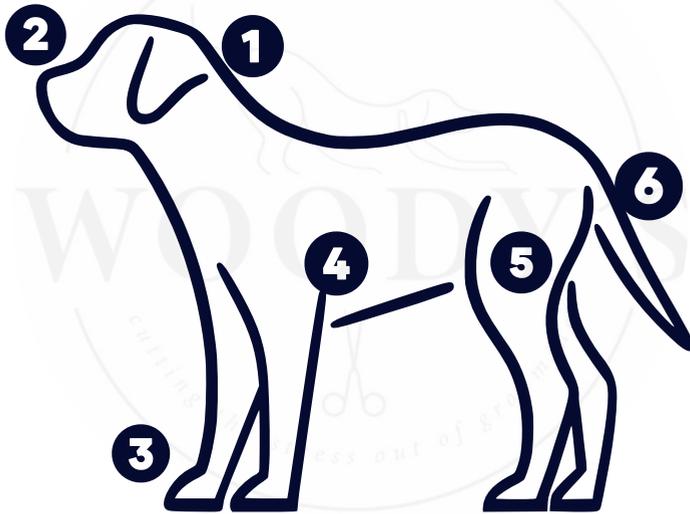
Start by using a soft brush, or the back of the brush you intend on using to stroke the dogs fur

Once comfortable, progress to a more coat appropriate brush, doing small sections at a time. The key to introducing any form of equipment is slow and steady. Breaking it down into sections to make sure the dog is completely comfortable.

If your dog is completely averse to equipment, you first need to understand why. Is it pain related? Is it a fear of the unknown? In this instance, you may wish to seek professional support from a qualified behaviourist.



KEY AREAS TO BRUSH



1. Behind the ears
2. The muzzle
3. Paws
4. Under the elbows
5. Under the thighs
6. The base of the tail

I would recommend brushing at least one of these areas every day. If your dog frequently wears a harness, then you may also wish to add the chest to this list.

I find brushing is much more successful if you break it down. You don't need to brush from head to toe every day (unless your dog is happy for you to do so!). Pick an area each time and spend a few minutes on it.

Never chase your dog with a brush or force them to stay if they are uncomfortable.

LINE BRUSHING

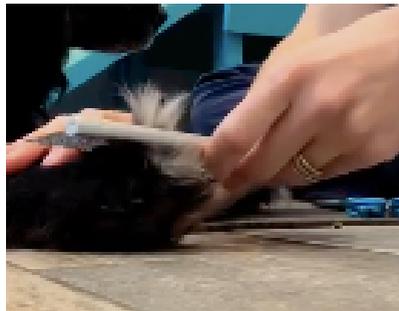
The best way to make sure you've got right down to the root when brushing your dog, is by using the line brushing method



Section off an area of fur with your hand, and then brush the exposed fur underneath.

Once you're happy this area is free from knots, double check with a comb and then bring down the next section of fur.

When brushing paws, use your comb to brush up all the fur from between the toes. This will enable you to also check for grass seeds!



GROOMERS TIPS

A dog's fur is more elastic when it's wet, and so you will find it much easier to brush your dog when you apply a conditioning product either in the bath, or use a good detangling spray.



Massage the conditioner into the coat, and brush it through using a bristle brush. Follow this up with a comb, or a paddle brush for more difficult areas.

If your dog is not ready for a bath yet, use a detangling spray and apply liberally before brushing it through using a paddle brush, pin brush and comb.



BATHING YOUR DOG

There is an age old question about how often you should be washing your dog. The skin is a living flora, which means it's made up of living organisms, impacted by the use of chemicals such as shampoos and conditioners.

Ideally we want to keep the skin as balanced as possible, but we also need to make sure it remains clean and healthy (healthy skin = healthy fur).

You only need to bath your dog when necessary (i.e. a skin condition on veterinary advice, rolling in fox poo, post clipping alopecia etc).



INTRODUCING THE BATH

Very few dogs enjoy being bathed, so a gradual introduction is key. Start by introducing your dog to the room, allow them to investigate freely

Ideally they should be washed in a place they can get in and out of themselves either with a ramp, steps or a walk in shower.

Once comfortable in the room, you can start introducing the bathing area by either switching on the shower at a low pressure and aiming it towards the floor or by filling the bath with a shallow pool of warm water
Reward your dog for a calm response

If the shower head is too much for your dog, try using a warm wash cloth over their body, or slowly pouring water using a jug - again, gradual is key

Some dogs prefer to be submerged in water, so you may want to try using a baby bath or filling your bath tub with a shallow pool of water.



BATHING METHODS

Once your dog is comfortable being bathed, start by thoroughly rinsing their coat.

Shampoo can then be applied either directly if it is a shampoo bar, or using a dilution bottle if a liquid form. It's important to massage the shampoo deep into the skin, either using your hands, an exfoliating glove (for dogs with dry skin) or a massage brush.

It is a misconception that shampoo needs to foam up to work well, so don't worry if you don't get a lot of suds.

Always apply shampoo to the face using your hands. Do not apply it straight to the face as this will cause irritation to the eyes. To rinse, tip your dogs head down and gentle pour the water from behind, covering their eyes.

When cleaning ears, be sure to cover the ear canal to prevent water from entering.

Don't forget to apply conditioner - this is the perfect time to brush through any little knots.



DRYING

The ideal drying method for any dog is ambient (aka natural!). Investing in things such as drying robes, and microfibre towels can help speed up the process and prevent your dog from getting too cold



If you really need to dry your dog, then you need to introduce the equipment gradually. Start with drying your own hair whilst they're in the room, give them something nice to chew or a lickimat so they can start to associate the sound with something positive.

Make sure it's not too hot! Contrary to popular belief the air you use to dry doesn't need to be hot to do the job. Using cool air is much kinder to the skin, you just need to keep it moving



Give them room! When you do start to aim the dryer towards them, allow them space to walk away. Having something like the mat protocol can help - when they lay on the mat you can dry them but if they walk away stop immediately

USING CLIPPERS AND SCISSORS

The most important thing when using clippers and scissors is safety, for both your dog and you.

Areas with thinner skin such as underneath the legs, the hygiene area and chest are the places where most care needs to be taken to avoid injury. Always use your hand as a guide and to protect the skin.

I would always recommend asking a professional to do this, or at least asking them to demonstrate it a few times before attempting to do it yourself.



Useful tips

If cutting out a knot or matt, use your comb as a guard by inserting it between the matt and the skin and cutting over the comb teeth - that way you're not going to catch the skin



When trimming around the eyes, always make sure the blade is pointed away from the eyes!



CLIPPING AT HOME

There are four things to remember when clipping your dog at home



When clipping a dog's fur you should always go in the same direction as the fur, i.e. down towards the tail. Do not use the clippers in reverse as this can result in irritation and a much shorter cut than intended!



Heat! As the motor works to power the clippers, it generates heat and therefore your blade is likely to get hot. You should stop and check the temperature regularly to avoid burning your dog



Blade length - the blades for dog clippers are opposite to humans - the higher the number the shorter the cut



The angle - the blade you're using should always be flat to the skin and never tilted, to avoid injury

GROOMERS TIPS

Face trimming

To trim fur from around the eyes use your comb to gently brush the fur up on the bridge of the nose. Anything that sticks up in front of the eyes can be removed. Remember to always angle the point of your scissors down, away from the eyes!



If you need to remove fur from the top of the head, brush all the fur forward and anything that again hangs over the eyes can be removed.



To trim around the mouth, brush the fur forward and then trim away anything that comes past the nose. To remove fur going into the mouth, make sure you hold the lip at the skin and only trim hair past your fingers



GROOMERS TIPS

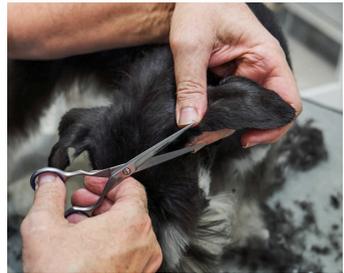
Ear trimming

To thin out the fur on your dogs ears, use a 7FC blade flat against the inside ear leather. Do not clip over the ear canal, and always make sure you place a finger or thumb over the loose flap of skin at the base of the ear.



If your dog has a build up of fur inside their ear, please consult your vet. Ear plucking should not be done at home.

To shape the ear, hold the skin between your fingers as a guard and then follow the shape of the ear.



SAFETY NOTICE



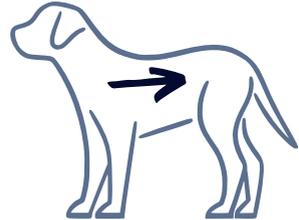
Ears can be difficult to groom. Proceed with caution at all times, and do not attempt if your dog is likely to move their head suddenly.

DISCLAIMER - THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE ONLY A GUIDE. I WOULD ALWAYS RECOMMEND HAVING A PROFESSIONAL DEMONSTRATION PRIOR TO HOME CLIPPING/SCISSORING

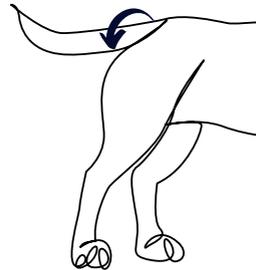
GROOMERS TIPS

Body trimming

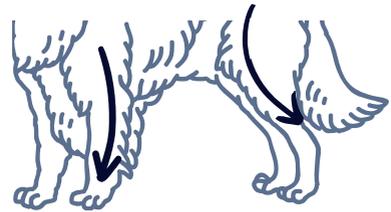
For a basic welfare trim, I could recommend using a 6.4mm blade. Place the clippers with the blade flat against the skin, starting from the neck down towards the tail.



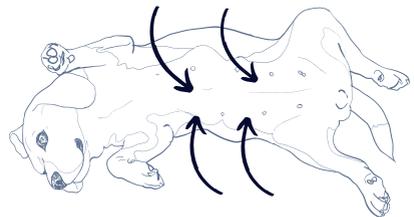
Using your hand for support, clip away the extra fluffy bit at the base of the tail, and then scissor trim the rest. Always hold the fur in your fingers to prevent catching the skin. To reduce the length, find the end of the tail and hold it in your fingers and you can then cut away the excess fur.



For the legs, follow the natural shape with clippers in a downward motion.



To trim the tummy, have your dog lay on their side and run the clippers downwards (not across). If they prefer to stand, follow the body round using your hand to support any loose skin.



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GROOMERS TIPS

Chest

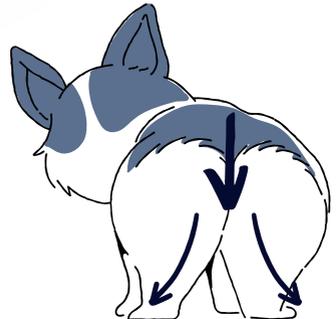
To shave the chest area, think V shape! Keep the blade flat to the skin and not at an angle to avoid injury.



Hygiene area

Start by shaving the inside of the leg using a 3.2mm blade. This is best accessed when the dog is led down. This is a sensitive area with thinner skin so go slowly and make double sure the blade is flat to the skin.

To remove hair from around the bum, shave down from the base of tail to underneath bottom. If shaving a male dog, be sure to hold onto the penis when shaving to prevent injury.



SAFETY NOTICE

The hygiene area is a high risk area so I would always ask a professional to demonstrate it first.

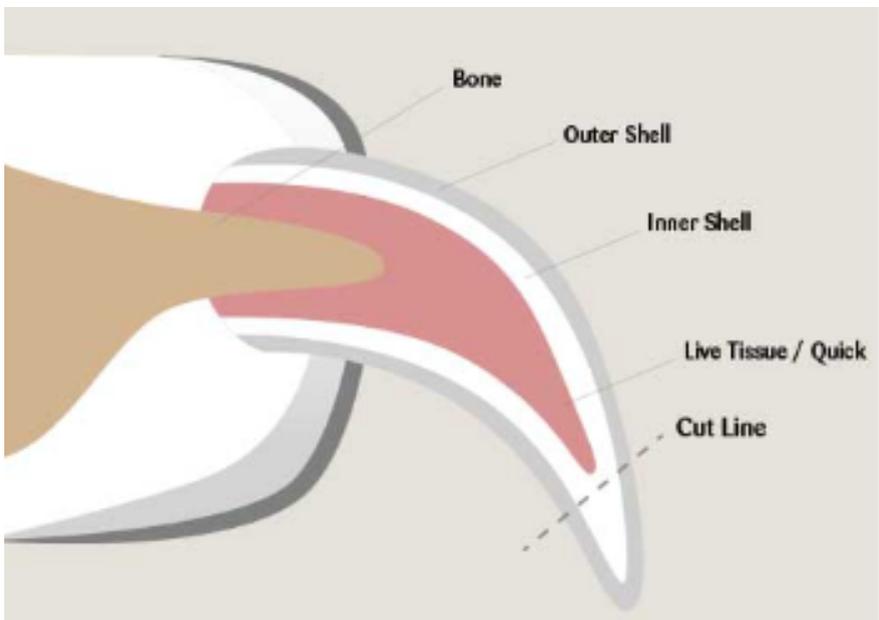
DISCLAIMER - THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE ONLY A GUIDE. I WOULD ALWAYS RECOMMEND HAVING A PROFESSIONAL DEMONSTRATION PRIOR TO HOME CLIPPING/SCISSORING

NAIL TRIMMING

Unlike humans, dogs don't actually have nails. They have claws which contain nerves and blood vessels and grow directly from the phalanx bones at the end of a dogs toes. This is why they bleed so much if you catch the quick and cause pain.

The quick is name given to the blood vessel and nerves within a dogs claw. In light coloured nails the quick can be easily identified as the pink section. In dark nails it is much harder to see. It's really important not to cut the quick when trimming a dogs claws as this is what causes pain and bleeding.

How often you need to trim your dogs claws is dependant on the individual and their lifestyle. Little and often is the best option. Dogs whose claws become too long are at risk of injury, long term damage to the joints, conformation issues and arthritis.



NAIL TRIMMING

There are three main tools groomers use for trimming nails

The scissor style nail trimmers. These are usually my go to as they can be positioned easily without too much manipulation of the foot



The guillotine clippers. These are good for only taking a small amount off however, they can be fiddly to use as you need to put your dogs claw into the hole

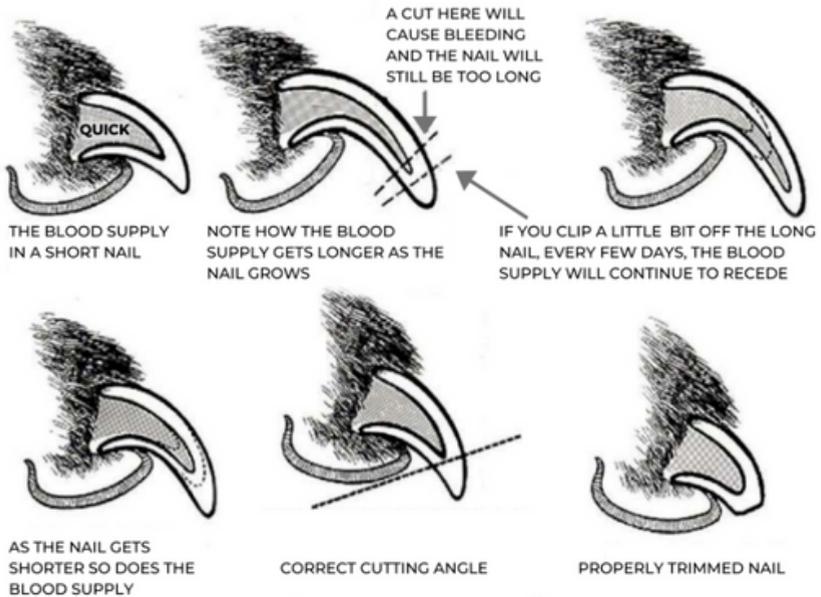


The dremel. A great tool if your dog isn't a fan of the clippers. This is an electric tool that files down the dogs claw. Be aware though, some dogs may find the vibration uncomfortable especially if they have painful joints.



NAIL TRIMMING

If your dogs claws are particularly long, then you will need to work on encouraging the quick to regress before you can take much off the length. To do this, you need to be taking tiny bits off on a weekly basis.



In the event you do cut the quick, it's important to not panic and apply some styptic powder (such as Trimmex) as soon as possible. Simply apply the powder to a cotton bud and hold against the nail until the bleeding stops.



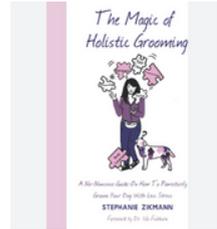
*Groomers hint - if you've run out of styptic powder you can use cornflour though it may not be as affective.

RECOMMENDED

READING LIST

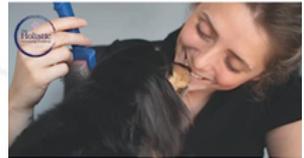
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