

Bathing a dog

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### Bathing a dog

Bathing a dog can be a challenge, but it is part of an owner's responsibility. There are many steps to washing a dog. The first major step is to prepare to wash the dog. This means making sure your dog does not have any skin allergies. If your dog does have allergies, you may need to buy medicated shampoos. Some dogs may also be sensitive to chemicals in regular soaps. If this is the case, you will need organic shampoos, like oatmeal or tea tree shampoos. A good shampoo is one with a neutral balance (pH 7) and has no fragrances or colors. Do not use human shampoos. Other supplies you will need are a brush, towels, cotton balls, and plenty of space. Dogs can cause a mess, especially if the dog does not like baths.

The first step is to brush your dog's coat of hair. Wet hair can become entangled, which will snag brushes and fingers. In addition, brushing your dog's coat will also remove some of the dirt and dust. Brushing the coat is also good for the coat because it keeps the coat in good health and is good for the skin. Also, the brushing will help relax the dog if it is nervous or does not like baths. You can also give the dog a pedicure and do other grooming.

If your dog does not like baths, or if this is the first time giving a dog a bath, you will need to coerce him into the process. First, make the dog comfortable with his surroundings. If it is an outdoor dog, set up a tub, like a small wading pool, outside in the grass. If it is an indoor dog, a normal bathtub works well. This area needs to be enclosed so the dog cannot escape. Then, slowly walk your dog over to the tub. Gently pick up the dog and put him into the tub. If the dog is nervous and resistant, you can put a treat or a toy in the tub to bribe him to enter. Tubs generally have a slick interior and the dog will have trouble standing upright without slipping. This will increase the dog's anxiety. A good suggestion is to lay a towel or a bathmat on the inside of the tub so the dog's paw will have traction.

After the dog eats the treat or plays with the toy, he will start to relax. At this point, place cotton balls in its ears so water does not enter. Remove the dog's collar and set it aside. Then, turn on the water slowly. If the faucet or hose is turned on full blast, the rush of water and the noise will scare the dog. Therefore, add a little water at a time so the dog will get used to the rising level. Start with a dribble and then increase the flow. Do not splash water on the dog. Instead, let the dog approach the water by himself. A good level of water is up to the dog's knees, and remember to keep the water temperature warm.

When the dog is comfortable with the amount of water, gently wet the dog's coat all over. Do not get water on the dog's face or head or it will seep into its eyes. When the dog is rinsed, apply the shampoo. Pour a strip of shampoo on the dog's back and massage it into the coat with your hands. Do not use a washcloth, since fingers are better for washing the coat. Do not shampoo the dog's face or head because shampoo will irritate the eyes and can be toxic if ingested. Remember to wash the dog's neck, belly and underside, legs, and armpits as well. Follow the recommended time on the shampoo bottle before rinsing.

To rinse the dog, do not splash water on its face or head. Rinse all the shampoo off or it will irritate the dog. To clean the face, use a damp cloth, but do not get too close to the eyes. After the dog is rinsed off, out a large bath towel (or microfiber towel) over his back and lift him out of the tub. Place him on a towel on the ground and gently pat the dog dry. Do not rub the dog with the towel and do not rub the face or head with the towel because it may get into the eyes. The dog will naturally shake itself to get rid of water, so be prepared for water splattering all over. If you choose to use a hair dryer, use the low setting only because a high setting will burn the dog's coat and skin. Also, do not point the hairdryer at the dog's face.

After the dog is dry, use a comb to straighten out its coat. Remove the cotton balls from its ears and attach its collar again. You can clean the dog's ears with an earwax remover applied to a cotton ball. Finally, give the dog a treat to thank him for his cooperation!

