**How to Groom Your Dog at Home**

In today’s society, everything comes at a price. Unfortunately, those who have a pet companion find that these costs can become steeper than some paychecks. Along with the necessities, getting your dog groomed at a professional groomer is rather expensive, especially on a month-to-month basis. Many consumers can save a lot of money by buying the correct products and doing the job themselves at home. While there are many different processes for different breeds, there is one general process that will keep your dog fresh and your wallet happy.

Before beginning, you will need to gather the supplies needed. You will need a dog brush (sizes vary by hair length), lathering soap, a small wash cloth, and a towel. Pet cologne is not necessary, but is recommended because it leaves a lasting and fresh scent after that just-washed smell wears off. If you do not have regular dog soap available, use baby soap or regular shampoo. Dawn dish soap is an abrasive soap and is very irritable to a dog’s skin.

After collecting the tools needed, you may begin tending to your dog. First, you will remove your dog’s collar. This is something that should be done at least once a week for about an hour or two even though you aren’t grooming them. Allowing your dog to roam collar-free gives their neck some breathing room and avoids future irritation in that specific area. Now that the dog’s collar has been removed, you will proceed by brushing your dog for twenty minutes. Doing this removes all loose fur and dirt from their coat. Just like you would vacuum before you shampoo your carpet, this is an important step.

When you have thoroughly brushed your dog, you may move on to the bathing process. You will begin by rinsing from the dog’s lower neck, down to their bottom. Be sure to rinse underneath on their stomach as well and avoid covering their head/face in water. Once you feel that your dog has been wet enough, you can start scrubbing them with soap. Any soap will do the job, but if you have a dog that tends to shed and you do not regularly apply de-shedding treatment, a de-shedding soap is recommended. Scrubbing your dog for roughly fifteen minutes is a reasonable amount of time to allow the soap to penetrate the dog’s coat. Following the soap, you need to thoroughly rinse the dog once more. Any soap that gets missed will eventually irritate their skin and cause their fur to clump together. With all of the soap rinsed out, you may remove your dog from the bath and dry them; towel-dry for approximately five minutes. If the dog is a long-haired breed, a blow-dry is sufficient.

After your dog is completely dry, you will brush them one more time for five minutes. This will collect any hair that came out during the bath. If you have any pet cologne available, you will apply it at this time for longer-lasting, fresh scent.

You now have a freshly cleaned dog in your home. All dogs should be bathed once every one to three months, with a regular brushing once a week. This will leave your dog feeling comfortable in their own skin, and you feeling at ease.