

## Well Groomed

### The Well-Groomed Pup

Grooming your puppy every day teaches it to like being handled by people. The best time to do this is when the puppy is sleepy and will enjoy the gentle touching by you. You will need:

Brush and comb appropriate for your puppy's coat

Nail clipper (have your Vet show you how the first time) or use a Dremel grinder. I personally like using a Dremel grinder because I don't accidentally cut a nail too short into the "quick" area. You can get any puppy or dog used to the Dremel by first introducing it "on" while you have you pet sit and eat treats. I will first have the puppy sit, then turn on the Dremel and just have it by my side while I give the puppy a treat. Eventually you work up to grinding one nail and giving the puppy one treat.

Ear cleaning solution (Nolvasan Otic is good) and cotton cleansing pads (in the beauty supply section of drug stores). Cleaning is best done when a puppy has done some hard playing and is resting or asleep on the floor with you. Then you can just gently rub its ears and gently clean the leathers.

Check your puppy each time you come back home for plant debris, i.e. foxtails or other weeds that may get imbedded into the coat and skin. Foxtails are the #1 plant danger for most dogs and can create very expensive vet bills if one becomes embedded in your dog's body.

When you're brushing the puppy, check for fleas (if you can't find any, then examine the puppy's tummy and look for tiny black dots – which may indicate flea dandruff).

Ask your vet if and when you should use a flea topical.