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**KENNEL CLUB ASSURED BREEDER SCHEME  
NEW PUPPY OWNER ADVICE SHEET**

**KEEP YOUR DOG HEALTHY AND HAPPY  
GROOM REGULARLY**

Bringing your puppy home for the first time is naturally a happy and exciting occasion, but it can be a little daunting too – there is so much for both you and your puppy to learn! The information contained in this leaflet should help you on your way to raising a happy and well trained dog right from the start.

**Grooming your puppy/dog**

All dogs will benefit from regular grooming, whether they are a short haired breed or one with a long or fluffy coat.

**Reasons for grooming – Remember ‘CHAIR’**

**Cleanliness** – keeping your dog’s coat clean by removing dirt and dead hair helps encourage new hair growth, and reduces the amount of hair deposited on household furniture

**Health** – grooming helps to stimulate new coat growth, and prevents the formation of knots or matting which may lead to skin irritation

**Appearance** – most owners take a pride in their dogs looking smart, and regular grooming will certainly help your puppy to look its best

**Inspection** – regular grooming is also a great way to check for parasites, or any suspicious lumps and bumps

**Relationship** – grooming is part of dog’s socialisation activities. Regular grooming helps create a bond between you and your puppy, and accustoms your puppy to being handled.

**Getting started**

It is important to groom your puppy at a height which is comfortable for both you and your dog. For many dogs it may be advisable to groom them on a table. There are custom made grooming tables available, which might be a good investment if you have taken on a puppy that requires a lot of grooming. But any sturdy table or work bench with a non-slip surface will suffice. Remember: **never** leave your puppy unattended on the table for even a short moment.

Start the grooming experience at an early age as part of your puppy's socialisation programme and routines. Keep the sessions short to start off with – just a couple of minutes, gradually increasing the time spent on the table. Always make the experience positive, rewarding with praise and suitable treats. Any struggling should be dealt with firmly but kindly, as your puppy may be frustrated, mischievous or even afraid.

Build up the experience and your puppy will come to accept the grooming routine and also being handled on the table. This will help with other activities such as veterinary visits.

Finish the grooming if your puppy shows signs of getting bored or tired, so that each session ends on a positive note.

#### 1.1.1.1

#### 1.1.1.2 **Dog coat types**

It's worth bearing in mind that factors like neutering, age, poor diet and poor health can dramatically influence your dog's coat.

There are 5 categories of coat type:

<b>Coat type</b>	<b>How often</b>	<b>Breed examples</b>	<b>Suggested equipment</b>
Double coats – a dense coat with soft undercoat concealed by a long topcoat	Approximately 30-40 minutes once a week to prevent heavy shedding 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lhasa Apso</li> <li>• Old English Sheepdog</li> <li>• Shih Tzu</li> <li>• Tibetan Terrier</li> <li>• Bearded Collie</li> </ul> 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slicker brush</li> <li>• Pin brush</li> <li>• Wide toothed comb</li> </ul>
Silky Coats – as its title describes, a silky texture not necessarily with coat length	Approximately 20-40 minutes once a week to prevent heavy shedding 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afghan Hound</li> <li>• Maltese</li> <li>• Yorkshire Terrier</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristle brush</li> <li>• Pin brush</li> <li>• Wide toothed comb</li> <li>• De-shedder tool</li> <li>• Rubber palm brush</li> </ul>
Smooth Coats – short and tight to the body.	Approximately 10 minutes once a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxer</li> <li>• Weimaraner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Massage mitt</li> <li>• Bristle brush</li> </ul>

Very low maintenance. Grooming achieved by removing the dead coat to leave a glossy finish	week to prevent heavy shedding 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staffordshire Bull Terrier</li> <li>Dobermann</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cloth</li> </ul>
Wire coat – these coats have a coarse, harsh topcoat with a soft undercoat	Approximately 30 minutes once a week to prevent heavy shedding and matts and tangles forming 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Highland White Terrier</li> <li>Wire Fox</li> <li>Border Terrier</li> <li>Scottish Terrier</li> <li>Schnauzer</li> </ul> 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slicker brush</li> <li>Terrier pad</li> <li>Wide/narrow toothed comb</li> </ul>
Wool coat – dense, bouncy coat requiring great care. A coat of high maintenance which requires specific drying techniques and trimming styles	Approximately 40 minutes twice a week to prevent matts and tangles forming 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poodles</li> <li>Bichon Frise</li> </ul> 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slicker brush</li> <li>Wide/narrow toothed comb</li> </ul>

### **Knots and matts**

A knot occurs where the coat is slightly tangled but it can be removed by careful brushing or combing out. Matts are formed when dead, loose undercoat hair becomes trapped by the top or guard hair, and starts to clump and twist together. If this matted coat becomes wet, the matting tightens and becomes almost solid. Do not attempt to remove matts unless trained in the procedure. Otherwise, refer to a professional groomer.

### **Care of ears, nails and eyes**

- Check your puppy's ears to see if they are clean. You can remove excess dirt from the inside of the ear flap with damp cotton wool. Never probe inside the ear as you may perforate the ear drum. Any odour is usually a sign there is something wrong and your puppy should be taken to a vet.
- If nails are excessively long remove the tip of the claw, taking care not to cut the quick or blood vessel.
- If needed clean the eyes with clean, damp cotton wool using a separate piece for each eye.

1.2

### **1.3 External Parasites**

A parasite is something that lives on another animal (the host) and gets its nourishment from the host. If left unchecked, the parasite causes disease or even death. The most common external parasites found on dogs are fleas and ticks.

- Fleas are very small, brownish black, extremely agile creatures. Excessive scratching and self-biting can be symptoms of flea infestation. Even if no fleas

are to be seen the presence of shiny black specks like coal dust (flea excreta) is a sure indication of the presence of fleas (dab the specks with a damp piece of cotton wool and if it goes pink it confirms the presence of fleas; these are the remains of a digested blood meal from the host).

- Ticks are largish grey pea shaped parasites that can be 3 to 4mm in length. They attach themselves to other animals in order to have a blood meal. There is evidence that ticks are also a threat to human health as they can spread Lyme disease.

There is now a wide range of proprietary powders, sprays, 'spot-on' treatments and anti-flea and tick collars available. A dedicated pet care professional will be happy to advise on suitable products.

1.3.1

### 1.3.2 **Other skin problems**

1.3.2.1

- Ringworm is a fungal disease, affecting the skin, nails and hair. Circular lesions appear causing hair loss, which become scaly and crusty. Ringworm is contagious and is a zoonotic condition (transmissible to humans).
- Dermatitis causes irritation, hair loss and inflammation and is a result of sensitivity to the environment.
- Alopecia can range from a thinning of hair to total hair loss and can be caused by a number of factors such as skin parasites, hormonal imbalance, infections, stress or poor nutrition. Seek veterinary advice for any skin problems.

## **Professional grooming**

Some breeds of dog may require professional trimming and styling. Most coated breeds will require full grooming about once every four to six weeks but even short coated breeds can benefit from a 'wash and brush' up more regularly to remove dust and dirt.

## **City & Guilds grooming qualifications**

The City & Guilds qualifications in dog grooming are the preferred qualification by dog groomers, ranging from dog grooming assistants through to the British Dog Groomers' Association Higher Diploma, the internationally recognised master craftsman level, LCGI status and membership of the Guild of Master Groomers. To achieve these qualifications a groomer will have passed practical and theory examinations.

## **Code of professional conduct**



All groomers belonging to the British Dog Grooming Association sign up to the Association's Code of Practice. Further information can be found at [www.petcare.org.uk](http://www.petcare.org.uk)

The Kennel Club aims to promote the health, happiness and general wellbeing of all dogs, and to provide you with an invaluable resource for every aspect of life with your dog.

To find out more, visit us today at [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk)