

How Often Should My Dog Be Groomed?

Every dog owner wants to know that they're making the best care choices possible for their canine companions. But when it comes to the frequency of grooming, figuring out the best practices for each pooch isn't always an easy task. Dogs come in all shapes, sizes, and fur types, so developing an effective grooming regimen is going to depend on a number of factors unique to each pup.

One of the biggest of these factors is hair length. As a rule of paw, the longer the hair, the more frequently Fido will need grooming. Hair brushing is recommended every other day for short-haired dogs such as pitbulls, but they won't require haircuts unless it's a medical imperative. Longer-haired dogs, on the other hand, need daily brushing and a haircut every 8 to 12 weeks. Terriers, silky-haired doggos, and those with thicker undercoats should be getting haircuts every 4 to 8 weeks. Wavy and curly coats require even more care; we suggest brushing their hair multiple times a day and a haircut every 6 to 8 weeks. Woof.

Bathing for most breeds is recommended once a month, or more if your pup is prone to rolling in the dirt. However, while it's important to keep your dog clean, remember that your dog's skin health is dependent upon a delicate balance of oil produced by the skin. If you notice that your dog's skin has become dry and itchy or too oily, it may be due to overbathing.

Speaking of bathing, when you dry Lassie off after a bath or a swim, we suggest you make sure to dry his ears. Most dog ears won't need regular cleaning, but keeping them dry is a way to help prevent bacteria. And if you have a breed with small, closed, or floppy ears, we suggest you take frequent peeks and sniff tests to make sure nothing's irritated in there, as these breeds are more prone to ear infections.

Teeth-brushing should ideally be done every day. One in three dogs suffer from periodontal disease, and this practice will prevent plaque buildup. Good dog breath is also a nice perk.

Finally, most active dog breeds generally won't need their nails trimmed more than every 3 to 8 weeks, since walking on hard surfaces tends to do a decent job of keeping nails short. If you hear a loud "tap-tap-tap" when your dog walks around the house, this is a good indication that it's time for a trim, as most healthy dog's nails won't touch the floor when standing still.

Creating a grooming schedule that works well for your dog and family can some time, but in many cases, a monthly visit to the groomers will do the trick. Paying attention to your dog's needs will go a long way in making your pupper look and feel...fetching.

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