



Here are some practical tips for shampooing your dog.

- * Usually fortnightly bathing is adequate, however, this may vary from dog to dog. Regular brushing allows you to monitor the dogs' coat.
- * bathing too often may produce that 'doggy' smell you are trying to eradicate, as the glands that produce the oil that protects the dogs skin work overtime to replenish what you are washing away.
- * Don't use human shampoo, soaps or detergents, these can be irritating and dry your pets skin. Animals skin and hair growth is very different to ours and using the wrong shampoo may be damaging.
- * Don't overuse oils (ie teatree or eucalyptus) as they can be irritating, especially to already sensitive skin.
- * Thoroughly wet your pet all over. You may find it necessary to add a small amount of shampoo as you go, as this will break down the surface tension due to grease on the skin and allows the shampoo to penetrate down to the skin where it is needed.
- * Use a sponge to apply shampoo, particularly around the face. Pouring shampoo down the back of your pet will mean you use more than you require. Work on a figure of 1-2 teaspoons per 5kg dog (the larger amount is for hairier dogs).
- * When lathering up always add more water before you add more shampoo.
- * Rub the shampoo all over including around the muzzle, lips and under the tail. These are the areas bacteria and fungus spread from, and are common causes of infection. The use of a sponge will make this much easier.
- * If using medicated shampoo allow time for it to work. In general, 10 minutes is required for most medicated shampoos to work their magic. Lather all over then let the dog out of the bath for the full 10 minutes (no longer) then pop him back in the bath and add some water to lather up again. Read your shampoo label as their directions may differ, always follow instructions on product.
- * Rinse thoroughly. It takes time to get rid of all the shampoo from the coat, the more shampoo you use the longer it will take. A shower rose or hydrobath is excellent. Your pet should be 'squeaky clean', if the hair doesn't squeak, there is still shampoo residue, which needs to be removed.
- * Dry gently. Using excessive heat or over-vigorous towel drying may irritate skin that is already sensitive.