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**Easy Method Dog Bathing**

Let’s face it, bathing a dog is not really fun or easy. Presented here is a method and tips devised to maximize the results and minimize the work involved with bathing your dog.

Ideally, your dog should be washed indoors. By washing in a bathtub or tub/shower area you’ll have the ability to heat the water and place a stopper in the tub. If a medicated shampoo was advised by your veterinarian, allowing the bath-water to fill up around your dog’s feet will allow the medicated shampoo to soak into the nooks and crannies of the feet. A good foot soaking is important because dog’s feet are usually one of the first places that a dog will develop allergic skin issues.

Wash your dog like you’d wash your car……

1. Brush your dog completely, No sense in washing hair that isn’t staying!
2. Fill a small container or bucket with warm water. Add enough shampoo to make a soapy solution. Using a soapy solution will allow for faster distribution on the shampoo as well as make rinsing a breeze!
3. Use a sponge (tile-grout or carwash sponges work great) to apply the soapy-solution to your dog. You can also use the sponge to scrub in the areas you might not want to touch (armpits, private parts and bottoms).

When using a medicated shampoo, allow the lather to sit on your dog’s skin for 8-10 minutes before rinsing. This step, often over looked, will allow the medicine within a medicated shampoo to soak in for maximum effect.

1. Rinse your pet and towel dry. Brush again to remove additional loose hair and any ‘tangles’.

One common question is “How often should I bathe my dog”? Although there is no set answer, the following tips may help determine the right timing for you particular dog.

1. If using a medicated shampoo (anti-bacterial or anti-fungal) as a treatment for a specific disorder: Use as directed by the veterinarian.
2. For general cleaning using a mildly medicated shampoo (anti-itch): Use every two weeks or sooner if needed. If your dog begins to itch badly, try a bath, you may be surprised of the calming effects of a bath.
3. For gentle cleaning with a regular over-the-counter shampoo: A bath or two each month should do.
4. A quick rinse without shampoo can be done anytime.

Please note, if you are using a topical flea product (Advantage®, Frontline ® or Revolution ®) you must wait 48 hours before or after a bath to apply the product. These products rely on the oils on your dog’s skin to spread. Bathing temporarily removes the oils.