

How to give your dog a bath

Brush or comb out your dog before giving a bath to remove tangles, and mats. Soap and water will only make them worse. When wet, tangles and mats will have to be cut out.

The less stress involved, the more your dog will accept getting a bath. Your attitude will strongly affect your pet's attitude. Never call your pet to you if the next thing you plan to do is unpleasant to him/her. Place a food treat in the bathtub and then go get your pet. A bath mat in the tub will insure steadier footing causing less stress.

Rinsing can be done with a plastic bucket or a spray hose connected to your tub faucet. The spray hose is our recommendation as it is easier to handle with one hand on it and one hand on your dog.

Never use shampoos intended for people. The pH balance is not appropriate for dogs.

Place a cotton ball into each ear to help keep soap & water out of the canals. Apply protective eye ointment if you're so inclined.

Use lukewarm water to dampen your dog from back to front and then, underneath. Leave your pet's head washing for last.

Using a small amount of shampoo to facilitate easy rinsing, work the suds into a nice lather starting at the neck and moving back to the tail in the direction of hair growth. Don't forget the belly, armpits, groin, and between the toes. If your dog has a long coat, squeeze and press the shampoo through his hair rather than rubbing it, which can cause tangles.

Rinse out the soap completely. Run your hands over your dog and check for any slimy or slippery spots. You'll need to re-rinse those places. Soap left on your dog after you give him a bath can cause skin irritation so be thorough when rinsing. This hands-on time is also an excellent way to give a full body check to search for any possible abnormalities that might need looking into.

Wash the face last. Wet your dog's head carefully and use your fingers or a wash cloth to soap up his skull, muzzle, and ears. Keep soap away from his eyes. Then rinse everything again from front to back and do one last check for soapy residue that could need rinsing.

Remove the cotton balls from your dog's ears. Then hold up a towel and stand back to let your dog shake himself dry. If he just stands in place, you can blow in his ear to trigger a good shake. Use the towels to dry your dog as much as possible. If he has long hair, pat rather than rub him dry to avoid tangles. Keep indoors until coat is dry.