



EAST FREMANTLE
Veterinary Clinic

Owners Handout – Week 2

East Fremantle Vet Clinic

Puppy Preschool

Grooming

Bathing

- Your veterinary nurse will recommend a product to use on dogs with a healthy coat
- If your puppy has special requirements consult your veterinary nurse or veterinarian for advice – the veterinary clinic will stock a range of shampoos for specific needs.

Coat brushing

Here are some helpful tips you can use when brushing your puppy:

- Establish a regular location and routine for grooming, which involves the puppy standing
- Brush in the direction of the hair growth, as brushing against the hair pattern may be uncomfortable for your puppy
- Dogs with thick or long coats may need to be groomed every day to prevent painful mats and knots
- Smooth-coated breeds may require grooming less frequently, but still keep to a routine so that it remains familiar and enjoyable
- If your puppy needs professional grooming because of a breed requirement or special fashion cut, introduce her early to a friendly groomer
- Do not try to groom your puppy if she is in a highly playful mood; wait until she is more relaxed
- A toy or tiny treats can be used to distract your puppy during the grooming process.

Nail Clipping

Here are some helpful tips for trimming your puppy's nails:

- It's important to trim nails regularly to remove sharp tips and thereby minimise accidental scratches during play
- Be cautious to avoid blood vessels and nerves in the pink nail base
- If your puppy has dark nails, the nail base may not be easily visible so consult a veterinarian or professional groomer about trimming the nails
- Only use only nail trimmers designed for dogs
- Nail trimming should be introduced gradually. For example, start by gently touching your puppy's paws when she is relaxed and give quiet praise and perhaps a small treat. Then slowly get your puppy used to handling by gently pressing against her footpad and separating her toes, taking care to reward her with quiet praise and perhaps treats at all stages



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- Initially, a few nails should be trimmed once a week. The more often nail trimming is performed the more familiar it will become to your puppy
- A nail trim every four weeks is usually enough to keep the nails from growing too long
- Don't forget the dewclaws, which are extra toes on the front and sometimes back feet on some dogs. If left untrimmed these can grow into the puppy's skin
- In some cases, using a nail file or emery board rather than clippers can help keep the nails short.

Skin care

Check your puppy's skin for:

- Dryness
- Redness
- Flaky skin
- Significant loss of hair.

Ear Cleaning

- Consult your clinic's veterinary nurse or veterinarian for advice as ears are very delicate.

