

Grooming Care for your Kitten or Puppy

Congratulations on your new family addition! **You** are so important for the health and safety of your new puppy/kitten. First and foremost you have taken your P/K into your **trusted** veterinarian for a thorough exam, vaccinations, appropriate flea and heartworm prevention. (Heartgard – Frontline dogs and Revolution for cats)

List of items you should have at home:

- Good quality diet – Hills Science Diet – Eukanuba – Purina – Iams
- Bowls - ceramic or metal are best. These wash well in dishwasher and don't retain as much food residue on them as plastic (causes acne on chin of pet)
- Combs – coarse – medium – fine – depends on coat length and texture
- Brushes – soft – medium – hard bristles – Zoom groom is very good.
- Nail clippers – designed for dog or cat
- Syptic powder – to stop bleeding if nails are cut to short (cornstarch works in a pinch)
- Washcloth – clean around the eyes, nose and mouth
- Cotton balls – to remove wax and dirt from the ears. Recommend – Vet Solutions ear cleaner or one recommended by your veterinarian.
- Shampoos – Please buy a Hypo-allergenic or sensitive skin shampoo – Do Not purchase grocery store shampoo that has products with medication in them ex. Flea shampoo as these can be toxic and make your pet very sick. One very safe product that you usually have on hand is Dawn Dish Liquid (original blue formula) a few drops of this in some warm water cuts body oil and dirt, while not irritating the skin. Do not get any soap in the eyes – Best to just wipe face area with water. We offer a wide variety of shampoos and can recommend which will work best for you. – Aloe & Oatmeal shampoo – Hydra- pearls – Dermapet Hypo Allergenic – Hylte Shampoo.

Grooming now when they are young ensures a lifetime of beauty and comfort. Pets that are exposed to grooming early learn to accept it as part of life. This daily activity helps us all bond with our pet.

- 1 Set aside a specific time of day and location for grooming, this establishes the routine.
- 2 Have all your tools laid out – Brushes, combs, clippers, washcloth etc ...
- 3 Bath should be once or twice a month depending on breed and activity and coat condition.
- 4 ****Start the grooming session by gently petting your pet. Slow, Steady movements are important so that your pet doesn't mistake this as a play session. Sudden movements or rushing may even frighten your pet. **Avoiding** fear and negativity is one of your most important objectives. Don't be discouraged if you are unable to complete everything in one session. Even just a minute of positive daily grooming should be considered a success. Over time and dedication on your part grooming, will become a special moment for you and your pet. Remember at the end of every grooming session to offer treats and lots of praise.**

Daily combing and brushing helps with blood circulation and improves the skin and coat. This also gives you a chance to check for lumps and bumps or cuts and scratches. Removing dead fur from the undercoat allows your pet to properly insulate its body.

Dead fur left in the coat will form into tangles, then quickly progress into tight, **painful** mats that are difficult and sometimes dangerous to remove. Its very dangerous to cut a matt out with scissors as the skin can twist up into the matt – This is even more dangerous in cats as their skin is very delicate.

Adults and Senior animals benefit from regular grooming for all the same reasons as a youngster. But with age their bodies secrete more dander and oil. They also have more needs – arthritis and hip problems are tops on the list for Dogs and Cats. You can ease some of their pain with routine baths and massage while grooming. Just as people – we enjoy our day at the spa.

I hope this is informative and I will be glad to bathe and care for your pets here at Argyle Vet Hospital. My name is Evelyn and I am a vet technician . Baths and Grooming are my forte. Please call and set up an appoint with me. This is a service we offer to our clients because we care and offer top expert care.