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Your Puppy's First Groom

The Grooming Process

Puppies need to be slowly & gently introduced to the grooming process. The general rule of thumb is to begin grooming a puppy after they have received the first series of vaccinations.

Your puppy will be brushed out & combed completely, followed by cleaning of the ears (removal of hair/debris in the outer ear canal), nail trimming, clipping of hair around the paw pads & sanitary areas, as well as a brief inspection of the teeth and gums. Puppy will then have a warm, relaxing bath followed by a brief experience with the fluff dryer on low speed, providing they will tolerate such. The goal is to help your puppy relax and learn to enjoy the grooming process.

At Home

To help your puppy acclimate to having their feet handled, make time for brief, pleasant foot massages for your puppy. This will help make nail clipping a stress free process for your puppy. It also helpful to massage puppy's ears frequently so they become comfortable with the ear cleaning process.

To encourage your puppy to accept brushing & combing, be sure to have available a sturdy brush appropriate for your pet's coat (see groomer for more details), as well as a stainless steel comb. While holding your pet in your lap and speaking in soft, reassuring tones, gently comb or brush your pet's coat. This also promotes bonding between puppy & family members so it's a good idea to get everyone involved when possible.

If puppy is prone to tear stains or mucus build-up around the eyes, make certain to regularly wipe gently with a warm, damp cloth. If you are interested in products to combat this, please speak with your groomer.

Patience & consistency are the keys to making grooming an enjoyable process for puppies. Make it fun for everyone involved! Keep treats handy for when puppy has behaved well. Positive reinforcement works wonders!

Don't forget: if you aren't sure about how best to handle any situations, ask the groomer for advice. We are here to ensure pets & their families enjoy a lifetime of positive experiences.