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# To bath or not to bath...

That is the question!



VET PRODUCTS ONLINE has a variety of SHAMPOOS available for you to choose the correct product for your dog

Most dogs would rather skip bath time, but bathing plays an important role in the health of your dogs' coat and skin and helping to remove dander. Dander is the old skin cells that have sloughed to be replaced by new cells. The dogs' entire skin is replaced about every 30 days so a bath once a month could be the order of the day. However, some dogs like Basset hounds or those with skin conditions may need to be bathed more frequently.

Your first decision will be WHERE to bath your dog. It must be safe for getting them in and out. A small dog can be plopped in the sink, but larger dogs will need to go in the bath tub or shower that has a detachable nozzle. A portable doggy tub is an option that can be used inside or outside.

Now for the TECHNIQUE



BRUSH before bathing, especially if long coated with matts - matted hair holds water and can cause irritation to the skin.

Use LUKEWARM WATER to wet the dog all over.

TALK to your pet in a calm and reassuring voice.

MASSAGE the shampoo in all over your dog, not forgetting armpits, between toes and the belly. Rinse really well with warm water ensuring all the shampoo is out. Repeat at least once more. The first wash removes excess dirt but the second wash will get right down to the skin.

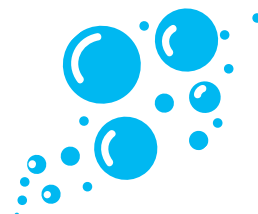
And finally getting DRY....



First towel dry, then use either a dog specific hairdryer or a human one on the medium or cool setting.

If it is warm enough they can also air dry, but do give them a brush every half hour until completely dry.

REWARD your dog with praise and petting or playing Tug of War with the damp towel.



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# Using the correct shampoo...



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For regular bathing, use a gentle shampoo such as PURL SHAMPOO, HYLIT HYPO-ALLERGENIC SHAMPOO, and PHYSIOLOGICAL SHAMPOO. It may help to dilute the shampoo with a little water in a jug as this helps it sodd up and spread better.



For a dry itchy skin, PRO-SOOTH SHAMPOO and VETS OWN Super Sensitive Shampoo can be used.



Skin that is infected with bacteria or fungi need medicated shampoo such as PYODERM and PYOSTAT NF. Infected skin can be very smelly so daily bathing may be necessary until the infection is under control



Dogs with excessively oily coats often have scaling and crusting of the skin too and will need a medicated shampoo such as SEBBADERM.



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# Summer is on the way!

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## Tips to keep your dog safe

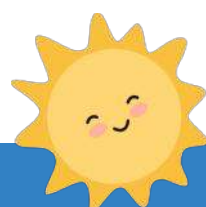


Our dogs love summer as much as we do, as it's when they get to spend more time with their humans. Just remember that it's important to keep your dog safe and healthy too. Read on to learn some important summer safety tips for dogs.

1. Never, ever, ever leave your dog in a hot car. It makes sense, yet we still see so many people doing it! Did you know that it takes mere minutes for a dog to develop heat stroke and suffocate in a hot car? Especially in South Africa, and when a car's parked in the sun. It's best not to take your dog with you if you're going to have to leave him or her in the car, even for a very short amount of time!
2. Make sure your dog is protected from ticks and fleas, because if they're not, they're at risk of contracting horrible illnesses such as Biliary. There's an abundance of tick and flea products on the market that'll keep your dog safe.
3. Keep your dog's paws cool. Believe it or not, it's common for people to take their dogs for a walk in the middle of the day in 35-degree heat. And when it's boiling hot,

surfaces like tar, cement and paving can get very hot! Not only can this burn paws, but it can also increase body temperature and lead to overheating. Also don't put your dog in the back of a bakkie (truck) – in addition to the risk of falling out and being badly injured or killed, the hot metal can burn paws.

4. Fresh water and shade are so important! Dogs get very thirsty when it's hot, so they also need fresh, clean, cool water to drink. If they're outside during the day, make sure they have a shady and cool spot in which to rest. You could also invest in a little kiddie's pool for your dog to safely cool off in.
5. Some dogs aren't good swimmers, so if they jump or fall into your pool, they may not be able to get out. Ensure that your dog can't get into your pool when you aren't monitoring him.
6. Watch out for sunburn! Yes, dogs can get sunburn and skin cancer too, especially those with short or light coloured coats.
7. Watch what your dog eats – during the summer months, we're more likely to braai or eat outdoors. Make sure that your dog can't get hold of bones or any human foods that could be dangerous for him or her.



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# Keeping your pet's belongings clean

Having a dog or cat in the family means living a life of unconditional love, constant companionship and, to be honest, a lot of cleaning.

Because we love our pets so much, it's important to clean key items of theirs regularly and thoroughly to prevent them from getting sick. Pet-loving bacteria thrives on their blankets and beds, in their bowls and even on their toys.

## HOW TO PROPERLY WASH YOUR PET'S BEDDING

Depending on your dog's or cat's activity levels, you'll most likely need to wash bedding once every two weeks. The recommended method is to wash all blankets and covers on a full cycle at 60° Celsius using detergent or bleach. If, however, your washing machine doesn't have a temperature gauge, or if your machine is only fitted for cold water, you may need to hand-wash. Remember to remove as much hair as possible before washing using a vacuum or rubber gloves to avoid hair clogging drains and washing machine components.

## WHAT ABOUT TOYS AND BOWLS?

One in five pet parents who responded to a new survey in the USA admitted to waiting at least a month to clean their pets' eating and drinking bowls. However, bowls should be washed daily with dishwashing liquid and hot water to avoid illnesses.

Pet toys can be a source of bacteria (including Staph bacteria), yeast, and mould. While you won't need to clean all of your pet's toys as often, it's still a good idea to give them a soak in hot water every now and then. As always, if a toy is broken or altogether too dirty to clean, you might want to grab a new one.

## LEASHES, HARNESSES AND COLLARS

Leashes and harnesses should be washed every few weeks. You can throw these in the washing machine when you do your pet's bedding, but avoid putting genuine leather leashes and harnesses into a washing machine, as it could damage them.





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