

Warm Weather Grooming Tips

Whether you have a short-haired cat or a long-haired dog, once Spring transitions to Summer, all pets have grooming needs that shift along with the weather.



If you're overwhelmed, don't feel guilty if you need some help getting started — take your pet to a professional groomer to do the “heavy lifting” and then maintain subsequent sessions.

Brushing Up

- Consider a spa day for your pet that includes a good brushing and a bath and then another brushing with a tool such as a curry brush – with big rubber teeth.
- Different coats may require different tools too such as slicker brushes, combs and fine-tooth de-shedding tools and rakes.
- Trim or brush out any mats before bathing; this will make things easier for everyone. Consider investing in quality scissors, perhaps blunt-tip ones.
- Some long-haired pets appreciate the coolness that comes from being clipped. Just don't turn your Persian cat into a Sphynx. A pet's coat can act as insulation, preventing it from overheating, so fully shaving it is often not recommended.



Bathing

- Invest in a good pet-specific shampoo and conditioner. This isn't the time to share: Products for humans are often heavily fragranced and are not appropriate for a pet's skin and fur.
- Dry shampoos in between traditional baths can be an option, as well as conditioning sprays and wipes.
- Use warm water on your pet; too hot or too cold will make your pet more uncomfortable not

just with the water, but with the entire process. If you can regulate the water in your hose, outdoor bathing can be an option. Just make sure you can properly restrain your pet, perhaps with a helper.

- More doesn't mean better—ask your vet for recommended frequency. Overbathing your pet can have the opposite effect of drying out the coat and skin.

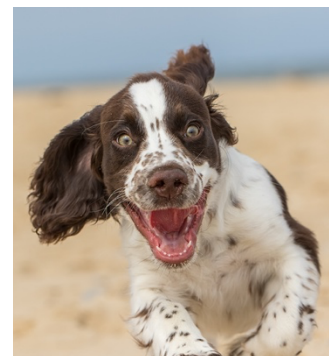


All Ears

- The transition to warmer weather can cause ear problems. Some attribute this to a season increase in dust mites.
- If your dog has some seasonality-related itchy ears, there are various sprays, salves, and wipes to help clean and soothe them.

Post-walk Checklist

- Nicer weather means more walks with your dog. That creates more chances for unwanted guests and debris. Wipes are great to bring along to help keep the outdoors out. Before you go back in the house, wipe down fur and paws to remove any allergens or dirt.
- Even worse are the bloodsucking hijackers. Fleas can jump from your dog to your furniture and make itself right at home. If you take your dog to the beach, don't forget to check for sand fleas.
 - Also check for any dry patches or rashes that may indicate an allergic reaction or skin irritation.
- You may notice with more time on asphalt, your dog's nails don't need to be trimmed as often. However, check for debris between their paw pads regularly; that fur may need a trim.



Health and Safety

- Now is the perfect time to make sure your pet's flea and tick meds are current. This is important for cats, too, even if they don't go outside.
- Also, even if your pet doesn't go outside regularly, that doesn't mean the nicer weather isn't enticing. It's a good time to make sure the phone number and other info on the pet ID tag is still legible. If your pet isn't microchipped, it's a great time to do that, too.



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