

# Bathing your pet

## Keep your pet clean and healthy with regular bathing and grooming.

If your pet gets regular professional grooming, they'll only need a bath at home when they get dirty. Without professional grooming, dogs need a bath every 4 to 8 weeks, or as recommended by your veterinary team. Cats may need a bath if their skin gets dirty, or if they have long hair that easily gets matted.

- ▶ Pets with skin conditions may require more frequent bathing with a medicated shampoo or other treatments.

## Before you bathe

Make sure you have everything you need before you start, including:

- Species-appropriate pet shampoo
  - Brushes and combs that work for your pet's fur type and length
  - Towels
- ▶ Brush your pet before bathing them to remove loose and matted hair, which can hold water and cause hot spots from acute moist dermatitis.



## Hair matts

Pets with long, thin hair can get matted even if you brush and comb them regularly. Don't cut matted hair with scissors or clippers at home—it can be easy to cut or hurt your pet. Take your pet to a professional groomer instead.

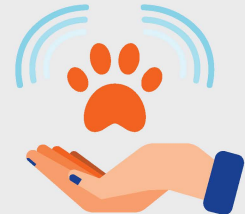
## Bathing

Small pets can be bathed in a sink or basin. Larger dogs may require a bathtub, or be bathed outside when it's warm. Always use lukewarm water. Hot water can burn and pets seldom enjoy cold water, like from a garden hose. Completely saturate your pet's fur—a shower attachment can help—taking special care to avoid getting water in your pet's eyes or ears. Then apply a pet-safe shampoo and work it into a lather, making sure the shampoo reaches your pet's skin. If you're using a medicated shampoo, follow all directions, and leave it on your pet's skin for the instructed length of time. Then completely rinse all shampoo from your pet.

- ▶ As you wash, check your pet's skin for lumps, parasites, or other problems.

## Drying

Towel-dry your pet, then allow them to completely air-dry or use a pet-safe dryer. Avoid human hair dryers, which can burn your pet's skin.



## How to help your pet

- Remove loose and matted hair before bathing
- Use lukewarm water and a pet-safe shampoo
- Thoroughly lather the shampoo and make sure it reaches your pet's skin
- Ensure all shampoo is rinsed off of your pet before you start to dry them
- Take note of lumps, parasites, or other abnormalities
- Make sure your pet is completely dry to prevent skin irritation
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!

