



DOG GROOMING TRADE SECRETS

# HOW TO WASH YOUR DOG AT HOME

*LIKE A PRO!*



## ABOUT ME



*Chris Elwell*

***Dog Grooming Expert & Trainer***

Chris Elwell is a Top Dog Grooming Expert and Dog Grooming Trainer based in West Wales.

He has 17 years of experience in dog grooming and a BSc(Hons) in Animal Behaviour and welfare, along with a PGCE and Level 3 Diploma in Dog Grooming..

In this guide, you find out how to groom your dog at home using the strategies that Chris uses for his own dogs and in the salon. Tips & tricks that actually work.



*let's be friends*

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# CHECK FIRST



## **EYES, EARS, TEETH**

Eyes ears teeth - check all 3 weekly

Wipe eyes and add eye drops if necessary.

Check ears, remove any build up of wax, using a dog ear cleaning solution to get the wax out of their ear canal. Read the instructions carefully. Most now rely on the fluid to break down the wax and then the dog shaking it loose and out of the ear. Do not be tempted to push anything into the ear canals and do not use cue tips.

Particularly or consistently dirty ears could be a sign of infection or mites. If you observe any infection symptoms consult with your vet immediately

Brush teeth with a doggie toothbrush - give a dog friendly tooth chew, but check the sugar and salt content of these first, and don't use them too often.

# HOW OFTEN SHOULD I BATH MY DOG?

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## SMOOTH COAT - SHORT HAIREED DOGS :

Like: Beagles, Boston Terriers, Greyhounds, Staffordshire bull terriers, all these types of dogs still need to be need to be groomed and bathed on a regular basis.

Unlike 25 years ago where it was often a choice of washing up liquid or baby shampoo, there are now a range of specially formulated Dog shampoos. These take into account the different PH balance of a dogs coat and skin

## THICK COAT - LONG OR SHORT HAIR DOGS:

Like a Akita, Great Pyrenees , Golden Retriever, Pomeranian. These should be brushed on a daily basis. Not only will this help keep the coat matt and knot-free, it allows the air to flow through the coat.

This will help the dog regulate their temperature. Regular brushing also helps stimulate the glands that produce the natural oils required by the coat.

## OILY COAT BREEDS

Like Basset Hounds, need frequent bathing every week. As their oil glands make their coat itchy, smelly and greasy... again make sure you use the correct products.



If your dog has a water repellent coat you shouldn't bath your dog - check with your local dog groomer.

Don't over wash your dog this will remove their natural oils - If in doubt check with your local dog groomer.

We know some dogs get really really dirty after a walk and its necessary to give them a bath, but if they are not really dirty dont over do it, and remember to use the right products. Incorrect bathing can lead to Dry Skin & Dandruff.

## TOP TIPS FOR A STRUGGLE FREE BATH

YOU WILL NEED:

Dog Brush

2 Big Large Towels

Doggie Antibacterial Shampoo

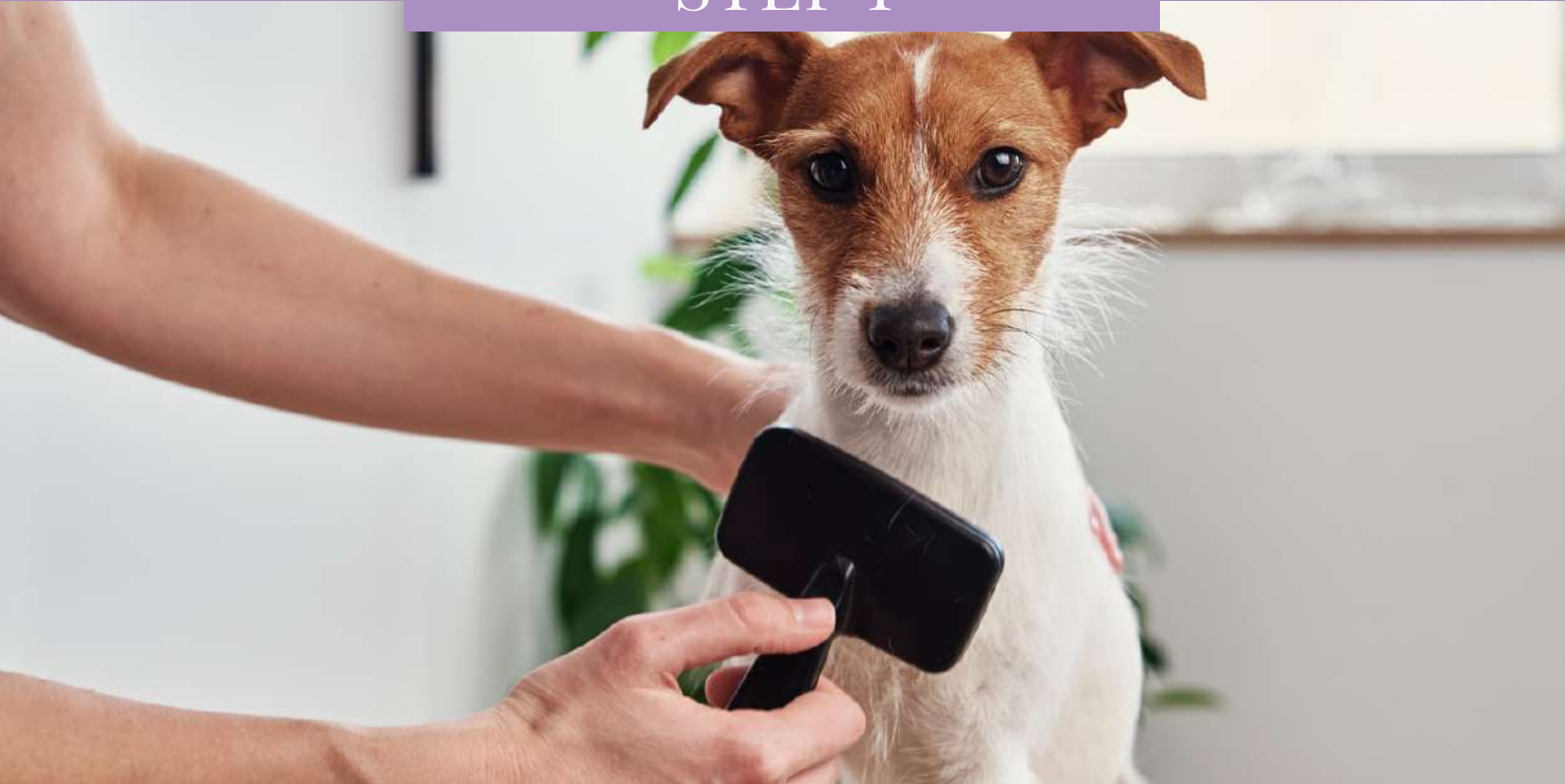
Shower / Plastic Jug

Doggie Treats

PATIENCE.....



## STEP 1



### **BRUSH YOUR DOG....**

Brush your dog before you give them a bath. This will remove any dirt that is present in their coat. This will also remove the loose, dead, tangled and matted hair.

Always start from the end of the hair and work down the root. This will prevent discomfort from dragging knots along the hair shaft and also damaging the hair. Be careful to use the correct technique and brush away from the skin not down it. This will avoid the brush irritating the skin.

This will take a bit of time for long haired dogs but be patient.

Have dog treats to hand to keep them happy. However always remember to use them to reward good behaviour, not merely to placate them.

You will need a good quality pinned brush for long haired dogs and a rubber teeth brush for short haired dogs.

## STEP 2



Once complete take your dog for a nice warm bath.

Keep your dogs collar on so its easier for you to hold them in the bath if they try to struggle.

Make the water lukewarm, (they can easily get burned with hot water) only fill up to their legs.

Make it slightly cooler for larger breeds as they tend to overheat quite quickly.

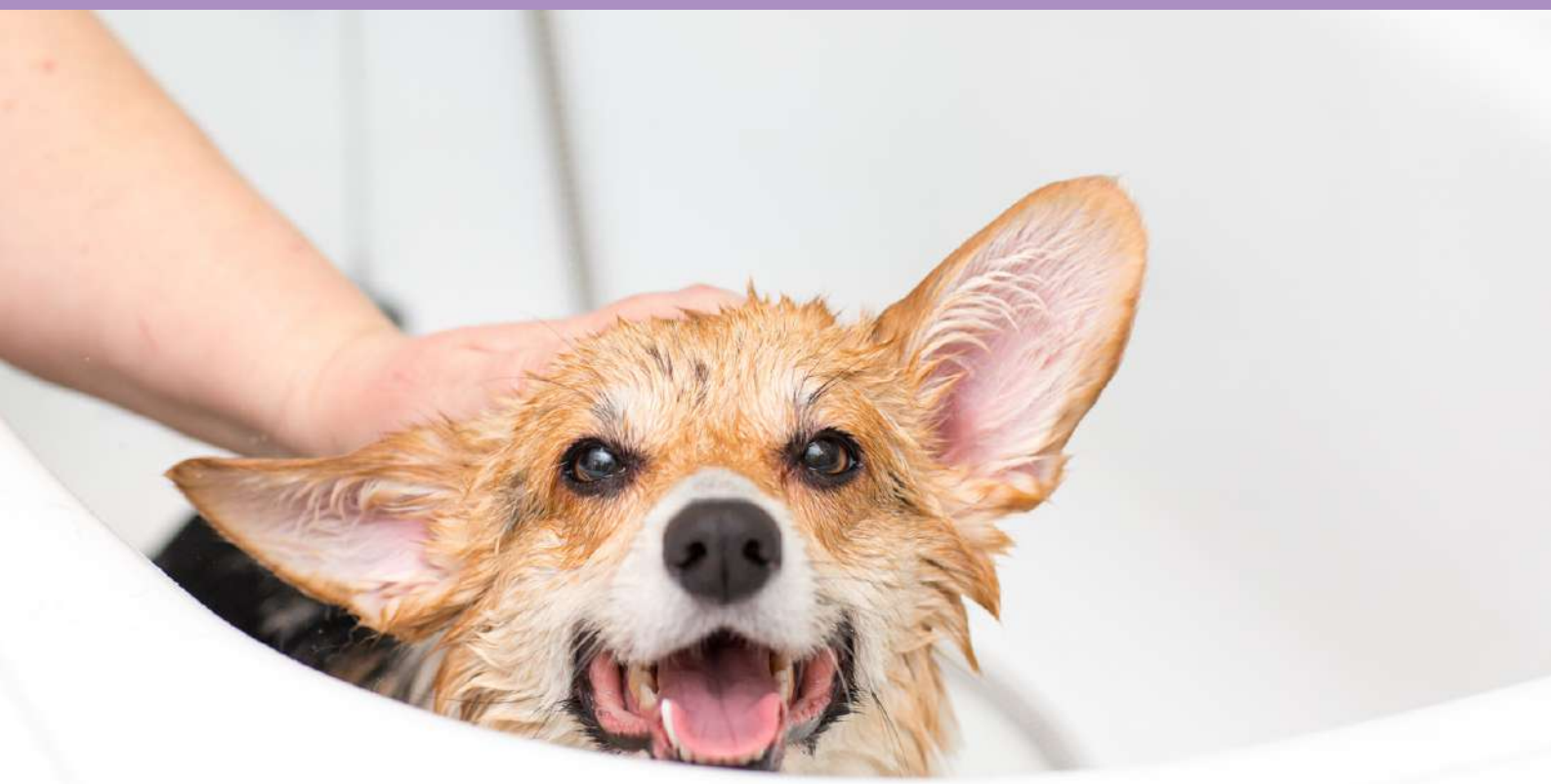
## STEP 3

Speak to your dog calmly, but do not over do it. Remember praise good behaviour. Calm them down before you place them into the bathtub. A reassuring voice will help them to have a stress free bath.

Carefully place your dog in the bath.

Here's the professional's tip. Before wetting your dog, mix the shampoo to the required dilution rate, in luke warm water in a mixing jug. This will ensure the shampoo will perform at its optimum, all over the dog not just where the shampoo gets put on.

NEVER USE A HUMAN SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER



Apply the shampoo mix starting at the feet, believe me that's where most of the smell comes from, as that's the only place they sweat in the same way as humans. Then work up the legs and over the body.

When that has been applied, use a stiff brush gently to work it all the way through the coat, don't scrub, brush in the direction of coat growth.

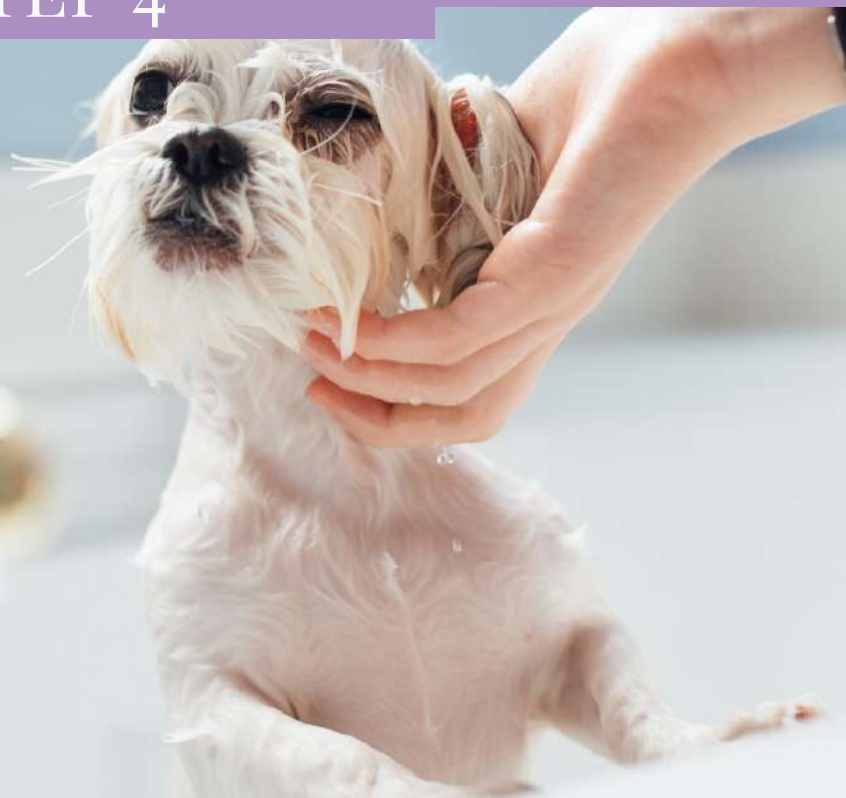
When washing the face ensure no water goes in their eyes, ears or nostrils. Rinse thoroughly making sure all shampoo is out.

When using a shower head, after checking the water temperature, place the shower head close to their body over the rear of their back. This will be less intimidating, and less noisy. If a dog is nervous you may be better rinsing using water from a jug.

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## STEP 4



Give treats as necessary and keep up the smooth reassuring talking.

## STEP 5

Place one towel on the floor, carefully place your dog on to this towel and cover them with towel no 2 and dry them off as much as possible to prevent them from shaking water all over your bathroom.

Dry off gently from head down to toe. Again don't be tempted to scrub, smooth dry in the direction of coat growth. This will help prevent knots. Some coat types will dry naturally. If you are considering using a hairdryer, make sure it has a cool air or no heat setting.

Do bear in mind though even these will get warm as they draw in ambient air. A dog's skin is much thinner than humans and much more susceptible to heat. It is imperative any dryer isn't held too close, and is constantly monitored for temperature.

**NEVER** brush your dog when they are wet, it will be painful for them.

# MISSION COMPLETE



Always end with lots of cuddles, a tasty treat and a lot of positive words.. tell them what a good doggie they are....

I hope you found this guide useful!

We know that not all dogs are the same (just like us humans) and each dog has its own needs to keep its coat in perfect condition...

For this reason we like to talk to all new clients before booking in for a groom.

We offer Free Doggie consultations to make sure your dog gets the right treatment and service they deserve.

Book in for your FREE Phone Doggie Consultation [HERE](#)

We have a Dog grooming Salon in [Newcastle Emlyn](#)...



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