

Dog Grooming Tips for the Holiday Season

Help your dog look and smell his best when guests arrive.

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Looking your best is an important part of feeling good this holiday season – even for dogs! Keep your pooch posh and pretty with these dog grooming tips. Baths can do wonders for a dog's appearance. Pets should be washed a few days before holiday guests visit for their coats to be in tip-top shape.

Brushing a dog before a bath will remove tangles and mats. Water actually tightens mats, but conditioner or grooming spray may be used to help loosen knots on a dry dog.

Lukewarm water – not hot – is best.

Shampoo applied directly to the coat may be difficult to spread. It should be poured into the palm of your hand and then applied to the dog.

Working on one area at a time before moving to the next can make for a more efficient, complete bath. When trying to get everywhere at once, it can be easy to miss a spot.

Conditioner can be used to hold moisture into the fur, helping to prevent dry winter skin.

But bathing isn't the only important part of grooming; consider additional trips to keep dogs smelling and looking great. Grooming appointments should be scheduled well in advance – and remember, the holidays are the busiest times for groomers, but a holiday appointment may be quicker if a dog receives regular grooming throughout the year.

Also keep in mind that brushing a dog's coat daily smoothes out fur and reduces shedding, which can be particularly nice during the holiday season, with less dog hair collecting on furniture and stylish holiday clothes.