AT HOME GROOMING FOR YOUR PET

Grooming your pet is an important part of general maintenance. This may include: trimming nails, cleaning ears, bathing, brushing, and for certain breeds, a visit to the groomer. You can bathe your pet whenever you feel it is necessary to remove grease, dirt, or accumulation of debris. Make sure you use a gentle, pet-specific shampoo.

When bathing your pet:
- Rinse your pet well with lukewarm water.
- Apply a sufficient amount of shampoo to the neck and along the back of your pet.
- The face and ears should be washed with a soapy washcloth to avoid getting soap in the eyes or ears.
- Rinse shampoo thoroughly from pet until water runs clear.
- Dry off your pet and make sure to use a cotton ball to dry out his/her ears.

When cleaning your pet's ears:
- Only use a pet specific ear cleaner.
- Fill the ear canal with cleaner and massage the solution in the ear.
- Allow your pet to shake out excessive debris.
- Wipe the ear with soft cloth or cotton.
- Repeat until all debris is removed.
- Make sure to thoroughly dry ear with soft cloth or cotton when finished.
Routine dental care is very important to keeping your pet healthy. The most common disease in cats and dogs is periodontal disease. Periodontal disease can not only affect the health of your pet’s mouth, but it can also affect the health of your pet’s internal organs. Certain kidney, liver, lung, and heart diseases can result from periodontal disease.

It is ideal to start brushing between 8-12 weeks of age. Your pet’s teeth should be brushed on a daily basis because it doesn’t take long before plaque mineralizes and becomes tartar. Practice each of the steps below over a few days or weeks. Never use excessive force or restraint.

- Start by acclimating your pet to having your pet’s mouth handled and touched. Massage muzzle, lift up your pet’s lips, and open your pet’s mouth while rewarding with verbal praise and treats.

- Once the pet feels comfortable with his/her mouth being manipulated, gradually introduce the flavored toothpaste. Place a small amount on your finger and let your pet lick it as a reward. Slowly start to rub your pet’s gums and teeth.
- Finally, you can gradually introduce the toothbrush. Hold the brush at a 45 degree angle to the tooth and brush back and forth, focusing on the gum line and moving to the tip of the tooth. Begin with a few teeth at a time and then slowly incorporate your pet’s entire mouth.

Ideally, your pet will start to look forward to teeth brushing. Following a consistent dental home care program will significantly improve your pet’s dental and whole body health while reducing the need for professional cleanings and painful tooth decay/loss.