

Introducing Grooming

There are three types of grooming that pups will experience during their lifetime that fosters can introduce easily: brushing of their coat, trimming of their nails, and bathing. All experiences should be introduced in a positive manner at the pace the pup allows.

Brushing: If a pup's adult coat will likely need brushing, we want to gently brush pups around three weeks of age and forward. Brushing can work out any hardened poop in their coats.

Allow pup to sniff and explore the brush before using it. Gently place the brush on the pup's coat before applying pressure.

Trimming Nails: Puppy nails need to be trimmed regularly, even at a young age, and will help them get positive experiences in preparation for a lifetime of nail trims. It will also prevent them from scratching their littermates and their mom.

Allow pup to sniff and explore the clippers before using them. Gently hold a paw in your non-dominant hand and clippers in your dominant hand to trim nails. A second person holding the pup in place to be helpful.

Bathing: If pups are dirty enough to merit, they can be bathed at four weeks old with a gentle, puppy shampoo with warm water (but not hot). Use warmed towels to dry them and thoroughly dry each pup before returning to a warm area. Their ability to regulate their temperature improves as they get older but is not complete for sometime.

Set up all your supplies before you get the pup into the sink/tub. Mix shampoo in a cup of warm water to pour onto pup. Turn water on to a gentle stream to give the pup time to react. Turn water off when working soap into their coat. Rinse thoroughly. Work quickly!

