

WINTER WOOFERS

Grooming doesn't stop in winter! During the chilly months, it's even more important to take care of your dog's coat. The cold weather stimulates hair growth which can result in matting and skin problems. Follow our simple tips to keep your dog's coat healthy during winter and best of all, they can become a great activity for the whole family!

Brush It Out

To keep your dog's coat long and beautiful, regular brushing is vital and it will maintain skin and coat health. This is something that you and your children can do together – all you need is a couple of minutes a day and it is a great way to bond with your pooch. A dog's winter coat can also hide skin nasties, such as lumps, sores or rashes - which is another reason to brush regularly.

There are specific dog brushes available for different coat types. Slicker brushes work best for removing knots and for breeds with medium-long or curly fur, while bristle brushes are ideal for short-haired dogs. Brushing throughout winter and maintaining regular wash and tidies at your local groomer will help avoid the dreaded short shave. No one likes a nude pup however if you must get your pup clipped short don't forget that there are protective raincoats and natural fiber jumpers available to keep your dog warm and stylish!

Rub-A-Dub-Dub Get Your Dog In The Tub

Just like humans, dogs can suffer from the bane of winter - dry skin and hair! Cold weather, wind and heaters within the home all contribute to dryness. The best solution is prevention! Use a moisturising shampoo and conditioner during winter to keep the skin and fur healthy and luscious, and it will also make brushing a breeze. Ask your kids to collect their dog's favourite toys & treats to turn bath time into a game - how many times will your pup shake it out in the tub (and all over yourselves)? If you bath your dog at home, ensure they are completely dry before letting them outside because a wet, cold dog is not a happy dog!

Clip Those Nails

As the weather gets cooler we tend to go outside less, and our dogs aren't playing or walking on concrete as much as they usually would. This means that their nails aren't wearing down naturally and they need to be checked regularly. If you can hear "tap tap tap" on your floors as they walk, then it's time for a trim. Keep those paws in tip-top shape and tell your kids to listen out for that delightful sound!

Take Care Of Cracked Paws

Like their skin, dogs' paws can become quite dry when outside in winter. If severe enough, the pads can become cracked and in some cases infected. Use a moisturising balm on their pads to help prevent cracking from occurring. Another quick and easy solution is to wipe your dog's paws with a dry towel after each outing. Keep a towel at the front door and make it a fun routine that your kids can help with – it might help your kids remember to wipe their feet after playing in puddles too!

All of these simple tips really do make a difference to your dog's health and happiness, so make it a fun part of your family's routine.

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