

ONLINEGROOMINGSCHOOL.COM CURRICULUM

THE BASICS OF BATHING AND GROOMING

1. **INTAKE/EXAMINATION:** You should always start with any animal you meet by checking with their owner for concerns such as allergies to shampoos. By asking this simply question, you will find out whether they require hypoallergenic shampoo. The client may have a preferred shampoo of their own that they want you to use. Check also to see what type of haircut is desired. Check for the age of the dog. Finally, check for anything that may require special attention, such as aggression, cage fright, prefers females, etc.

During the examination process you should feel for any noticeable mats in the pet's coat. If you find that the coat is heavily matted, then this would be the time to express it to the owner. Discuss what type of hairstyle is best for the pet. Most owners have an idea as to what they want their pet to look like. In some cases, it is impossible or inappropriate to give the pet a certain type of hairstyle because of the dog's age or coat condition.

Examine the ears of the pet. A foul-smelling ear discharge will be a good indication that the pet may have an infection. During the grooming process, the pet will put up plenty of resistance if you attempt to clean its ears. It is my opinion that if you do find that the pet has a possible ear infection, it would be best not to clean the ear in its entirety. By leaving some discharge in the ear, you will aid the veterinarian in properly diagnosing the problem.

Checking the pet's teeth is also a good idea. If the pet has tooth decay, it will be very painful for the pet if you attempt to shave around the muzzle. The mouth tissue is very tender and painful when this is the case. This is usually a problem in older pets.

If you notice anything on the pet such as moles, bald patches or injuries, mark them down on your examination card and ask the owner how it happened or if they know about the injures. If you are the one taking in the pet and you are done filling out the card, ask the owner if there is anything else they may want you to be aware of.

Be cautious with any animal, if you are not the person who checked them in and you now have to retrieve them from a cage. Some dogs can experience cage fright. There is a technique in retrieving "cage fright dogs." It is also important that you are aware of any of the pet's physical ailments. For example, if he has a hip or back problem, you need to be more careful when handling him.

2. PLUCK THE EAR HAIR OUT OF THE EAR, IF IT IS BREED APPROPRIATE.



Some breeds have more hair in their ears than others. In these cases you will remove the ear hair with a special ear powder that helps liquefy the ear hair. This medicated ear powder also aids the bather in grasping the hair. Most ear hair is covered with earwax and may be difficult to properly grasp without the powder. In these cases you will sprinkle the ear canal with the powder and with your fingers or hemostats you will quickly pull out tiny bits of hair.

How do you know if it is breed appropriate to remove hair? If the dog does not shed, it requires the ear hair to be removed. Examples of such breeds are Poodles, Bichon, Shih Tzus, Yorkies, and Lhasa Apsos.

If the pet sheds, such as a Cocker or Golden Retriever, it will require that you shave the inside ear leather with a #10 blade. Not all shedding breeds require this, for example, Pugs and German Shepherds do not.

Cleaning the ears is a very important step in the grooming process. It is important to identify what a healthy ear looks like verses an unhealthy ear.

- A healthy ear is dry and light pink with NO foul odor.
- An unhealthy ear is tender to the touch. They are usually dark red, swollen and moist.

Some pets may even seem to appear to have ear mites. Ear mites look like a dark reddish brown wax that resembles coffee grounds. Please note that even a veterinarian must examine the specimen under a scope

before determining that the pet has ear mites. Nevertheless, if you suspect ear mites, treat it as such. You may still groom the pet, but make sure that you disinfect your tools prior to using them on another pet. Remember, you cannot make a diagnosis, we can only make observations. If you suspect an infection, advise the client that it would be a good idea for a vet check and let the veterinarian make the diagnosis.

3. CLEAN THE EARS WITH ANTISEPTIC SOLUTION.

Gently take a cotton swab and apply ear cleaning solution to it then wipe away any dirt or wax on the ear leather or canal. Only go in as far as you can see.

4. CLIP THE NAILS IF NEEDED.

How do you know if you need to clip the nails? A good rule of thumb is if the nails are not touching the ground, don't clip them. The following pictures are good examples of nails that should be clipped.



To most new bathers and groomers, this is the most intimidating process of grooming a pet. In order to make the process a little less troublesome, there are special handling techniques, tools and diagrams to assist the bather or groomer in nail clipping.

Using the proper tools and handling techniques, start at the back legs and then work your way to the front legs. If the pet gets aggressive with you,

you may, at this time, need to muzzle the pet or ask for assistance. Once you have finished clipping the nails then you may remove the muzzle.

The following are techniques to handle a pet when clipping nails.



Front approach, arm over body.



Front approach, arm under body.



Back approach, arm over body.



Wrestler hold. One person holds While other clips nails.

Not all the nails need clipping. Just clip the ones that need it. As a rule, the back nails are shorter than the front ones. Remember to always check the dew claw. This nail often gets missed and as a result, ingrown dew claws sometimes need to be surgically removed by a veterinarian.



Courtesy of www.vetmed.wsu.edu

White Nail: The easiest nails to clip are those with white nails. With white nails you can see where the quick begins. Only clip the small tip just under the quick.



Courtesy of blog.luckydogbiscuits.com

Black Nail: With dark or black nails, you will need to estimate where the quick is. Usually three fourths of the nail is the quick. If you accidentally cut the quick you may use styptic powder (quick stop) to stop the bleeding.



Courtesy of www.stjamesanimalhospital.com

Only use clippers that are designed to clip dog nails; do not use human nail clippers.

Always cut the nails before bathing so that if you accidentally cut the quick and it bleeds soiling the coat, it can be washed. Very rough or sharp nails should be filed after clipping.

There are times when it is easier to clip the nails in the tub after the pet has been bathed. This works particularly well if the pet has thick, brittle nails. The warm water will soften the nail, thereby keeping the nail from splitting when clipping. Another advantage to this is that some pets are more relaxed in the tub making the nail trimming less traumatic for them and you.

5. **DO THE SANITATION TRIM, IF BREED APPROPRIATE.**

The purpose of a sanitation trim is to keep the belly and private area clean of hair and debris. Sanitation trims are most popular for smaller breeds such as Shih Tzu, Maltese, Pomeranian, etc.

When doing the sanitation trim on the belly area, be sure to only use a #10 blade. This reduces the chances of clipper irritation and cuts and nicks. When doing the sanitation trim, shave against the grain. If the dog is prone to clipper irritation, then go with the grain.



Side approach, lifting leg.



Front approach.

When doing the sanitation trim on the anal area, DO NOT put the blade directly on the anal area. Again only use a #10 blade.



Sanitation around anal area.

6. **SHAVE OFF ANY MATS THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO BRUSH OUT PRIOR TO BATHING.**

It is better to shave out a mat before getting it wet. Once you add water to a mat, it makes it very difficult to remove. The best blades to remove a very tight mat are a #10 or a #7 skipped tooth (More on blade lengths later). Never use scissors to remove mats, especially around the ears. Only experienced groomers can attempt such a task and even then it is not recommended.

Some mats can be removed and taken apart with a detangler, cornstarch, hair splitters or mat breakers, slicker brush, and thinning shears. Only a mat that is very tight to the skin should be shaved off.

There will be times that no amount of dematting will remove mats. At this point, you will need to consider stripping all the hair off. Pulling and stripping on the dog's coat will only cause him pain and anguish. "Humanity before vanity," we always say.

Before stripping the hair, it is a good idea to call the owner first. When you call the owner, explain to them that it is uncomfortable and painful for the dog and could only dampen his spirits if you continue to try and comb out the mats. Remind him that the dog's coat will be grown out in 8-10 weeks and that by brushing it regularly; the mats will not occur again.

7. **SHAVE THE HAIR ON THE V PADS, IF BREED APPROPRIATE.**



The V-pad on the bottom of all feet is easy to shave. Remember that there is a tiny tendon at the point of the V. Be careful not to nick the tendon.

Dogs such as Golden Retrievers and Cocker Spaniels grow excessive amounts of hair on their pads. There are times when you may find gum or

other debris attached to the hair. If the hair is left unattended, it could lead to infection and pain when walking.

Shaving the pads prior to bathing is a good habit to get into.

- a. First, select the proper blade. I like to use a #40 blade. Do not use anything lower than a #10 blade.
- b. Locate the V on the underside of the pet's paw.
- c. Shave the lower side of the pads to give it a clean foot.



8. SHAVING THE POODLE FOOT.

Poodles should have their feet completely shaved. Some Poodles or owners do not like the look. The following are the steps that should be taken.

- a. Shave the V Pad.
- b. Shave the top of the foot from the toes to where the foot joins the leg.
- c. Shave in-between each individual toe. Be sure to spread the toes apart.
- d. Be careful not to catch the webbing between the toes when shaving. Only use the corner of the blade when shave this area.

9. SHAVING THE ENTIRE COAT.

There will be times when you will need to shave a dog prior to bathing him. There is no need to wash a coat that will be shaved short anyway. In addition, a dog with a heavily matted coat should not be bathed. If a pet is being shaved to ½ inch or less, you must clip before bathing.

What to watch out for when shaving a dog:

- a. In the armpits, only use a #10 or higher blade.
- b. Never use a skipped tooth blade in the armpit area.
- c. Be very careful around the 5 danger areas:
 1. Nipples
 2. Flank
 3. Ears
 4. Anus
 5. Hock
- d. Be careful not to let the blade get hot. If you are unable to handle the heat of the blade on your wrist, then it is too hot for the pet. Apply coolant spray to the blade and then continue. Using blades that are too hot may result in "clipper burn." If clipper burns occurs on a pet, it is always the fault of the groomer. Clipper burn looks like a sun burn.

10. BRUSHING OUT OR BLOWING OUT THE UNDERCOAT

There are certain breeds, such as the Chow, Siberian Husky, Akita, etc., that have a thick, heavy undercoat. You must get all this hair raked out or blown out before the bath. The undercoat is hair that is turning loose so the new coat can grow in. Raking it out or blowing it out prior to bathing, will give you better results when you dry the dog. This will also keep you from eating tons of hair during the blow drying.

When brushing a dog always use a downward flicking stroke. With a slicker brush, always begin at the base of the skull working your way to the tail. Continue to the legs by starting at the bottom and brush as you move upwards. When using any brush, always apply light pressure and don't go over the same area so much that the skin becomes irritated; this is called "brush burn." Brush burn is always the groomers fault.

You should always brush a coat that exhibits a lot of undercoat and matting before bathing. If you wet a coat with tangles or it is in bad condition, it will be much more difficult to remove any mats and dry the hair.

By creating a habit to do these steps prior to bathing will help improve your speed and will keep you from forgetting to do them. Nothing makes a client more unhappy than when details are missed. There will be times that you will be very busy and details will be overlooked if you do not get

into the habit of doing them at the start. Giving the dogs a “once over” at the end of grooming is also a good idea.

BATHING:

A dog is prepped and ready for a bath when:

1. All excess hair is removed. The pattern is: shaved on, clipper work, and excess hair is scissored off.
2. The toenails are cut.
3. The ears are cleaned.
4. All mats (tangles) are removed or combed out. If you cannot split and comb mats, spot shave with a #10 or #7.
5. The sanitation trim has been done (if breed appropriate).
6. The pads have been trimmed or shaved (if breed appropriate).

FOLLOWING ARE THE STEPS YOU SHOULD TAKE WHEN YOU BATHE THE PET.

- Read the intake card for any special instructions such as specialty shampoo. If it says hypoallergenic shampoo, you should use only that shampoo.
- Secure the pet in the tub.
- Turn the water on and check to see that the temperature is okay. A comfortable temperature is a little cooler than you would like your bath water to be.
- Wet the body but not the head.
- Check and/or express the anal glands. The anal sacs are found on both side of the anus, which discharge their contents into the rectum. During the bathing process, this would be the time to check to see if they are working properly. This is quite a simple procedure once you have located them and it only takes a few seconds to complete. The anal glands are located inside the anus. These glands are filled with liquid and secrete a foul odor. They should be emptied or expressed while grooming.
- **ON HEALTHY DOGS ONLY:** To relieve the glands, begin in the tub by lifting the dog's tail. Place an index finger and thumb on each side of anus

at the 5 o'clock and 7 o'clock position, then gently squeeze and expel the content. A good three squeezes are sufficient. (There is no need to strike gold).

- If you observe any swelling or abnormal condition of the anal area, don't do this procedure. Recommend to the owner that they take their pet to a veterinarian. The discharge should be brown in color. If any other color exists, inform the owner. Some pets will start to scoot if their anal glands are impacted. If scooting continues for more than a few days after sac emptying, the sacs should be rechecked. For some individuals, it takes several sac emptyings before the sacs stay emptied. If the sacs are empty and scooting persists there may be another cause (such as itchy skin, tapeworms, or even lower back pain).

ANAL GLANDS HAVE MANY FUNCTIONS:

1. They lubricate the anus.
2. They are used as a scent marker for identification.
3. Many dogs expel the gland to deter another dog.
4. They secrete when they are afraid.

Please refer to the following link for more details on anal glands.
http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_anal_sacs.html

Apply the shampoo and start to rub it all over the body. This will create a nice lather. While bathing, pay special attention to the feet, belly and rectum - these areas get are usually the dirtiest - then rinse thoroughly. If soap is left on the pet, it will cause an itchy, flaky dull coat. When fleas are present, allow the shampoo to sit on the pet for 5 to 10 minutes. If the water turns red when bathing, it means that you are washing away flea feces. **If the pet is really dirty, do this procedure twice.**

Once you have rinsed the body thoroughly, apply conditioner to the coat. Allow the conditioner to set into the coat while you move to bathe the head and muzzle. Ears **MUST** be protected with cotton so that water does not get in the ear canal. When getting close to the pets eyes, make sure to cover their eyes. Even though we use tearless shampoo, it can still irritate the pet's eyes. On dogs with wrinkles, pay extra attention to those areas since they tend to smell. Make sure to wash the muzzle area. If the pet has eye matter, you could use a flea comb to remove it any eye matter. The warm water softens the matter making it easier to remove. As you rinse the face, be careful to avoid getting water in the nose. Try to keep the muzzle in a downward position. Once you have finished with the head, you can proceed to rinse the conditioner off the body. Remember: over rinse if you have to.

I always like to apply eye drops to clear the eye from possible soap contact.

8. Many customers will ask you if you clean the dog's teeth. Yes We do – with a toothbrush and toothpaste, but we cannot remove tartar. Many customers think that is what you are going to do. Removing tartar is very technical. Tooth brushing only removes particles and debris from the teeth and gums. Brushing with a regular toothbrush is sufficient. Always use baking soda or natural toothpaste made for DOGS ONLY. DO NOT USE FLUORIDE TOOTHPASTE ON DOGS; it is not good for them.

What causes bad breath?

1. Pets over the age of four years old can develop tooth decay and gum disease.
2. Chewing at the fur or fleas can cause hair to get trapped in the teeth and become mixed with food causing a foul odor.
3. Pets that eat mainly canned food will develop plaque much faster.

Drying can be done while the dog is still in the bathtub. Dogs with long hair or Poodles and Poodle mixes should be fluff dried. Fluff drying simply means that while you are dry the hair, you are fluffing the hair upward with a slicker brush. You can dry a pet by using a forced air dryer, stand-up drying, or in a cage.

Drying the dog is one of the most important steps. If not done properly, it makes it impossible to do your scissor work correctly. Most dogs can be hand dried.

Poodles and Bichon Frise should NOT be over dried. What this means is that if they look dry, do not over dry them. Start on the topknot, and then the legs, tail, ears and body. The object is not to let it dry curly. If need be, cover part of the body with a towel so that area doesn't get over dry.

Before drying always towel dry to the almost dry stage. It saves time blow-drying.

Always secure the pet to the table when drying. When fluff drying, keep the dryer pointing in the direction the brush is working. Make sure the dryer is not too hot. Use the brush to dry the hair as straight as possible. Do not use your hand to shake the hair dry. Using your hands will cause waves and tangles.

Do not brush ears against the grain. Brush WITH the grain so you won't damage or tear the ear leather.

Most short hair pets can cage dry. Pets that are being cage-dried should be monitored every few minutes. Check to make sure the pet is not displaying Heat Stress.

SOME PETS OVERHEAT FASTER THAN OTHERS

Older pets, Puppies, Overweight Pets, Nervous Pets, Excited Pets, and Flat-face pets may have trouble breathing in warm air. Bubbled-eyed pets may suffer eye injury with too much heat.

Signs of Heat Stress

1. Excessive panting
2. Noisy breathing
3. Heavy salivation
4. Weakness

Always inform the owner about the symptoms and write them down on the pet's record.

Once you have finished drying the pet, if it is a long hair or curly hair breed, make sure that a comb can get through the coat with almost no snagging. It is at this point that the pet is ready for styling.

CHEMICAL FLEA DIPS

Some pets may require a chemical flea and tick dip. This does not mean that you submerge the pet in water. This just means that a special solution needs to be applied to kill the fleas and ticks. The dip must be prepared according to the manufacture's instructions. **NOTE: Making the solution stronger can make a dog sick.**

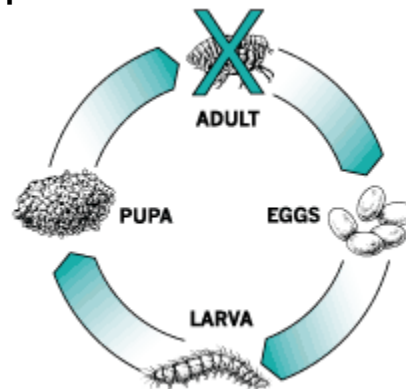
If the pet does require a chemical flea dip and the pet is a Poodle, make sure to let the client know that their pet will go home curly and slightly damp. Once the dip is applied, the dog should not be dried with a forced dryer or cage dryer. It must dry naturally, therefore, not allowing for styling of the pet.

Always ask for permission from the customer before applying any dips. Before applying the dip, take notice of the pet's eyes. Make sure they are not red, make sure the gums are pink in color and make sure their breathing is normal. Before starting, apply a small amount of Vaseline on the vulva or penis area to protect it from accidental contact with the fluid. Wearing gloves, take the dip and fully saturate the coat, starting from the back of the head and neck and work the dip down the back of the neck, over the back, and down the legs, making sure to get between the toes. It is best to create a barrier around the neck, because ticks will naturally head for higher ground and want to run to the face. Dab the dip with a cotton swab and dab around the face being very careful not to get any on the pet's eyes, nose, mouth, or ear canal. Also, as previously mentioned, avoid the penis or vulva.

Once you have applied the dip, wait a few moments and watch for any reaction the pet may have. Some pets will have a reaction to dips. If you find this to be the case, rewash the dog immediately. With most reactions, the skin turns very red or the dog acts lethargic, starts to drool and displays labored breathing. If a reaction occurs, mention it to the owner so that they can watch the dog carefully for any further complications. Sometimes you don't find fleas or ticks until you get the pet in the bath. Following are some picks to help you identify them.



It is also important to understand the flea lifecycle.



A single female flea may produce up to 2,000 eggs over her lifetime. Eggs hatch and can develop into adults within only three weeks. Adult female fleas feed by ingesting blood from your pet and subsequently lay eggs, which drop off your pet's coat. Within days, larvae hatch from the eggs and live undetected in your pet's surroundings, such as the carpet, bedding and other protected areas. Flea larvae spin a cocoon and when appropriately stimulated, a young adult flea emerges and jumps onto your pet to continue the life cycle. Dark specs that do not move on the pet indicate flea feces.

SHEDDING TREATMENTS

Some pets lose their undercoat twice a year while others shed regularly. This process is a natural event that allows the new coat to come in. All dogs shed; -

some more than others. There is no such thing as a non-shedding dog; however shedding varies greatly from breed to breed. Dogs that shed less are more prone to getting matted if not properly groomed on a regular basis.

How do you reduce shedding?

Regular grooming will control the shedding. Most owners won't take the time to do regular brushing. Since the hair is going to fall out anyways, it is better for the owner to brush regularly to not to allow hair to end up all over the house.

There are several products and supplements out there that help reduce shedding. A popular product is "The Furminator." The basic steps are as follows:

1. Blow out the coat with a high-velocity dryer.
2. Use the shedding blade to remove most of the loose undercoat.
3. Apply the Furminator shampoo and let sit for about 5 minutes.
4. Rinse shampoo thoroughly from fur.
5. Apply Furminator conditioner and let sit for about 5 minutes.
6. Rinse conditioner thoroughly from fur.
7. Dry coat and use shedding blade to remove rest of loose undercoat.

Dogs that are sprayed by a skunk

Did you know that it takes up to two full weeks for the skunk smell to go away? Did you also know that humid or wet days can re-activate the skunk odor? What does this mean to a groomer? It means money in the pocket. Over 50% of people who have a pet sprayed by a skunk will take their pet to get a treatment.

Washing or bathing a dog in tomato juice to remove skunk smell is a popular myth. It does have a small neutralizing effect, but all it really does is create a big mess. There is nothing more frustrating than having to remove tomatoes juice from all the walls after a dog shakes it off.

Removing skunk spray is most effective during the first few hours after spraying. The following is an effective home remedy.

Step 1

Mix 4 cups of hydrogen peroxide with 4 tablespoons of baking soda and 1 teaspoon of dish-washing liquid.

Step 2

Put cotton balls in your pet's ears to protect the inner-ear tissue from the cleaning mixture which could easily drip in.

Step 3

Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands during this process.

Step 4

Start with the pet's head, taking care not to get the solution into his eyes, ears or mouth. Apply a drop of olive or baby oil to his eyes to prevent irritation.

Step 5

Rub the mixture evenly into your pet's coat.

Step 6

Rinse the coat with clean water.

Step 7

Repeat if the smell persists.

Use the solution immediately after preparation. Do not store unused solution.

There are also many professional products out that are also effective. The most popular ones are: "Skunk Off," "PPP Skunk Odor Removal Shampoo" and "Nature's Miracle Skunk Odor Remover."

PET IS CLEAN, NOW WHAT?

A key to steady hand scissoring is scissor exercises. The following pictures demonstrate scissor exercises that help you have a steady hand. The purpose of the exercises is to eliminate chopping work. The goal is to only move your thumb while other fingers keep the scissors steady. Practice this technique every night for at least 10 minutes.

Put scissors under a table and push up as you open and close the scissors. You should be able to apply pressure against the table. Only your thumb should move. Be sure that your thumb does not slip all the way in the thumb ring. (Your ring finger and small finger should not be allowed to slip far into the ring either). Your middle and index finger should support the shaft of the scissor.

Horizontal Exercise



Horizontal Exercise



This exercise will come in handy when trimming legs. Apply pressure towards the table.

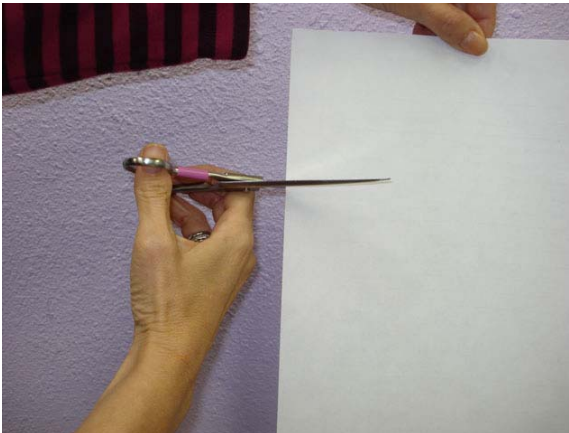
Vertical Exercise



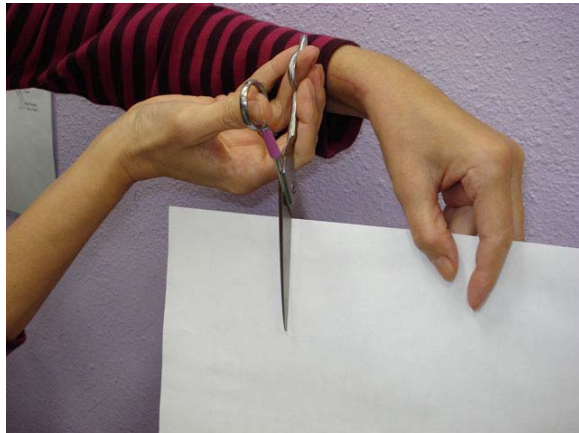
Vertical Exercise



Practice Cutting Straight Horizontal Lines



Practice Cutting Straight Vertical Lines



BLADE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE:

We suggest that you maintain and clean your blades and clippers **ONCE A WEEK**: If you groom a dog that was especially dirty, clean your equipment prior to using it on the next pet.

CLIPPER BURN:

This occurs when clippers are allowed to get too hot and the blade skimming against the pet's skin is shaved.

You must learn to check the temperature of the blade often by laying the flat side of it on the inside of your wrist, just like you would check the temperature of a baby's milk bottle.

To cool off a blade, use **Kool Lube** and spray on the blade for a few seconds, before you continue grooming. Having two sets of clippers is a good idea; this way you can switch back and forth.

CLIPPER IRRITATION:

This may occur after clipping a pet that has never been clipped before or is not groomed frequently enough to get the skin conditioned to be shaved.

There are four ways you can cause irritation:

1. Shaving against the grain **WITH** a **SHORT BLADE LIKE THE 10, 15, 30, or 40.**
2. Shaving over and over in one spot too many times with a short blade, like a 15 or shorter.
3. Using a hot blade.
4. Using a dull blade.

BLADES:

#10: This is the most commonly used blade. You should have more than one of these blades. This blade is very good for clipping the under body and other sensitive areas. It is commonly used for stripping a dog as this blade leaves about 1/8th of hair on the dog.

#7F: This is designed to finish clipper work and leave a nice smooth finish. It is a very handy blade to work on dog's faces with extremely sensitive skin. This blade leaves about 1/4th of hair on the dog.

#7: This is a popular one for stripping down dogs with matted hair. The blade is a skipped tooth and should only be used by experienced groomers. There is a

large gap between the teeth; therefore there is a higher chance of accidentally getting skin caught in them and having the cutting part of the blade nick the dog.

#5F: This blade leaves a much smoother finish - about 1/2 of hair on the dog.

#4F: This blade leaves about 3/4 of hair on the dog.

#3F: This blade leaves about 1 inch of a hair on the coat.

HANDLING PROBLEM DOGS

If you encounter a problem pet, this is what to do:

1. Hold the leash and head away from you and put your hand under the farthest end of the pet's body, lifting the pet to the table.
2. Use an Elizabethan collar or muzzle to keep it from biting you.
3. If you've tried to calm the pet and it still does not cooperate, call the owner to come pick up the pet.

NEVER ADMINISTER DRUGS:

You are not a Veterinarian. Many owners will swear that their pet has never bit anyone. NEVER say NEVER! Give the pet the proper respect and offer a kind hand and a friendly voice; you will have a greater chance of not getting bit. If the pet does not cooperate, tell the owner to obtain a muzzle or suggest that the owner have the pet sedated.

CLIPPING AGAINST THE GRAIN

Sometimes you have to go against the grain with your clipper to get it right. To briefly explain, there are times when the hair is too short or lays too flat to allow for the blade to clip the hair at the desired length. When this is the case, it is time to reverse clip. Let's assume that you are asked to leave a 1/2 inch on the body and you find that the blade is not picking up all the hair evenly. Then the solution to the problem would be to use a 3F against the grain instead of the 5F with the grain. This technique also comes in handy when you find yourself with a dull 5F and you haven't finished the job. The following is a guideline for blades and reverse clipping.

Reverse Blade Guideline

3F	Leaves 1 inch with the Grain	Against Grain	Same As	5F With Grain
4F	Leaves 3/4 inch	Against Grain	Same As	A little longer

	with the grain			than 7F With Grain
5F	Leaves 1/2 inch with the grain	Against Grain	Same As	7F With Grain
7F	Leaves 1/4 inch with the grain	Against Grain	Same As	10 With Grain

PET HEALTH

EAR INFECTIONS:

You will need to know the difference between a healthy ear and an unhealthy ear. an unhealthy ear is wet or damp and has a foul odor. They are usually DARK pink in color. Breeds with floppy ears are more susceptible to ear infections.

A healthy ear is dry and free of odor. Breeds with erect ears usually do not suffer from chronic ear infections.

KENNEL COUGH:

Kennel Cough is a highly contagious disease. It can last from two weeks to two months at times. You should not accept a dog with kennel cough into your grooming area. Some dogs get excited and will start coughing especially if they are on a choke chain. Take the choke chain off and if he continues, ask the owner how long he has been coughing this way. If he says he's been acting like this for sometime, then do NOT accept the dog into your shop. He needs to go to the veterinarian.

PARVO

The canine parvo virus can be transmitted by direct contact or indirectly by contact with vomit, diarrhea or any contaminated discharges from an infected dog. It strikes with a quick vengeance and pet owners often make the comment that their dog was up and playing a few hours prior to the animal becoming extremely ill. Unfortunately, parvo is often fatal.

The symptoms of parvo include. a sudden onset of vomiting, bloody diarrhea, dehydration, lethargy, high temperature and sometimes sudden death. Symptoms are similar in adults although they can be less acute. Because parvo attacks swiftly, time is of the essence. If you feel a dog has been exposed to parvo or is showing symptoms, contact your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary hospital immediately. <http://www.ambertech.com/whatisp.html>

THE FOLLOWING ARE SKIN DISORDERS YOU SHOULD BECOME FAMILIAR WITH.

Dermatitis:

Dermatitis is considered to be any form of skin inflammation. It may appear as scales or scabs. The pet will itch and scratch on the areas. The skin can become infected and can be treated with antibiotics.

Eczema:

This is known as hot spots or dry skin. A veterinarian will prescribe ointments.

Hematoma:

This appears when a blood vessel is broken. The skin swells and appears as a soft, red bump.

Mange:

There are two types of mange: demodectic mange, sometimes known as red mange, and sarcoptic mange, also called scabies.

1. Most dogs with demodectic mange have some form of mites. This mange is not contagious. The mange has a scaly looking coat or loss of hair around the eyes, mouth and front legs. Along with loss of hair, the skin will turn red and become thick and wrinkled. The skin does not itch.

Demodectic Mange



2. Sarcoptic mange attacks the entire body of the dog. This particular mange is highly contagious. Dogs with this condition have red, crusty skin with moist areas. There is a musty odor and an intense itch.

If you notice these conditions on a dog, notified the owner and tell him the dog should see a veterinarian. **A dog with demodectic mange can be groomed, but you should be careful and make sure to disinfect everything after you use them. A DOG WITH SARCOPTIC MANGE SHOULD NOT ENTER YOUR GROOMING AREA. IT IS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS AND CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO DOGS AND HUMANS.**

Sarcoptic Mange (Scabies)



FLEAS

Fleas can cause many problems to the pet such as:

1. Skin Eruptions
2. Dull Coat
3. Anemia
4. Dry Skin
5. Flea bite allergies
6. Internal parasites (worms)
7. Hot spots (moist eczema)
8. Extreme cases can cause death.

Be sure to view the Pet Hygiene Video at least three times and study this document prior to taking the quiz.