

## Tips for Getting Your Puppy Used To Grooming

1. **Start Young:** It is not too early at 6 - 8 weeks of age to get your puppy used to standing on a table (a picnic table works well - of course, making sure he or she does not jump off and get hurt). Brush him gently with a soft bristle slicker brush. Play with his feet and get him used to having them touched and held.
2. **Run An Electric Shaver Near His Head:** Start about a foot away and get closer, but do not touch your dog. Just get him used to the noise. If he is jumpy and nervous, just try from a distance at first until he is used to the noise. This may require extreme patience. If you go too fast and frighten him, it will be a "bad" experience, rather than a good learning experience.
3. **With The Shaver Still Running, Touch His Body Gently With The Shaver Handle:** Continue running the shaver and just run the handle of the shaver back and forth over the dog's back, getting him used to the noise and vibration.
4. **Use Your Blow Dryer:** Take your blow dryer and turn it on about a foot from your dog's backside. Get closer and work your way up to the shoulders and head. If he is jumpy or afraid, just keep it near his backside until he gets used to it. "NEVER" blow it directly into a dog's face.
5. **Repeat:** Repeat steps 1 - 4 at least 2 - 3 times a week until the first grooming, which should be no later than 3 months old.
6. **Reward:** Remember to reward your dog. Praise him constantly for good behavior and reassure him if he is frightened. A tidbit of food is also acceptable.

## Tips For Between Grooming

1. Brush longhaired or curly dogs at least twice a week. Follow with a thorough combing with a steel comb. A brush alone would not be enough and would not get down to the skin.
2. If your dog gets mats, cut through the mat a few times lengthwise with a sharp pair of scissors. Be very careful not to cut your dog. Comb out the mat with a comb, holding hair near the skin.
3. If your dog gets badly matted so that you can't get the mats out, "**DO NOT WASH**"! Washing makes the mats tighter, even with conditioner. Take your dog to a groomer immediately as only a professional can get the mats out correctly. Some mats, of course may be too tight and numerous to get them out, in which case the dog will have to be clipped short. Your groomer will inform you if that is the case.