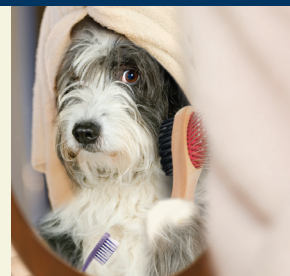




# Healthy Pet Tips

## Good Grooming Habits for Good Health:

*Ever stop to think what would happen if you didn't bathe or brush your teeth regularly? Not a very pretty picture, is it? Your pet is no different—hygiene plays an important role in her overall health and happiness. From keeping her coat shiny to preventing bad breath, good grooming habits are a simple way to improve your pet's health. Plus, regular grooming can help strengthen the bond between you and your pet by fostering trust and giving you an opportunity to express affection.*



### Wash, Fluff and Brush

Regular grooming not only keeps your pet looking and feeling her best, it also helps improve skin and coat condition. Periodic bathing along with monthly preventive medication helps keep fleas and other external parasites in check. Regular brushing helps reduce shedding and distributes natural skin oils that increase coat luster.

### Tooth or Consequences

Practicing at-home dental care with regular teeth brushing can help prevent oral health problems that could lead to more serious health issues. Be sure to use a toothbrush and toothpaste that are designed and formulated for pets. There are also toys, chews and pet foods made to fight dental disease.

### What a Lovely "Pet"-icure

Untrimmed nails can become ingrown or catch on fabrics and carpet and break, causing pain to your pet. If you're hesitant about cutting your pet's nails at home, your veterinarian or local groomer can help.

### Grooming Checklist

- ✓ Brush coat and teeth regularly
- ✓ Check eyes, ears, nose and mouth for any changes
- ✓ Inspect feet, ears, armpits and groin for "stowaways" such as plant burrs or foxtails
- ✓ Look for fleas and ticks, and use monthly preventive medications
- ✓ Keep nails at a comfortable length—and don't forget about the "thumbs" (dewclaws)
- ✓ Make grooming a positive experience—praise your pet during grooming sessions and reward with a healthy treat afterward!

As a pet owner, understanding the risks to your pet's health is part of responsible care. Look to VPI to protect your pet and your pocketbook from unexpected veterinary expenses. We also offer wellness coverage, which provides reimbursement benefits for wellness exams, dental cleanings, flea and/or heartworm preventive medications and more.

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