

DIY Grooming CHECKLIST



Here's a quick summary of the key areas to focus on during your home grooming routine:

Key Areas	Completed? / No
Preparation: Choose calm time/space, gather all tools, exercise dog, stay calm yourself.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tools: Use breed-appropriate brushes, a metal comb, dog-specific clippers/blades (if trimming), blunt-tip scissors, appropriate nail care tool, dog-specific shampoo/conditioner, towels, and a safe dryer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handling & Desensitisation: Gently touch everywhere (paws, ears, tail, face), pair with high-value treats. Gradually introduce tools positively.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brushing: Regular brushing based on coat type, get down to the skin, gently work out small mats, carefully cut out tight mats parallel to skin if necessary (seek pro help for severe matting).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bathing: Brush before bath, use lukewarm water & dog shampoo, rinse thoroughly, dry completely (preferably blow dry).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nail Trimming: Identify the quick, trim only tips, take small amounts frequently, have styptic powder ready, praise calmly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ear Cleaning: Use dog-specific cleaner, massage ear base, let dog shake, wipe outer ear only with cotton wool/cloth. Check for redness/smell = vet visit.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eye Cleaning: Wipe gently around eyes with damp cloth/cleaner, avoid touching eyeball. Check for discharge/redness = vet visit.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paw Care: Check paws regularly, trim fur between pads carefully, trim fur around paw edges.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic Trimming: Use blunt-tip scissors/clippers for face, paws, sanitary area. Hold skin taut, go slowly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know Your Limits: Seek professional groomer for severe matting, complex clips, or highly fearful/aggressive dogs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain Schedule: Establish a consistent routine for brushing, checks, nail trims, and baths.	<input type="checkbox"/>