PAWPRINT ACADEMY

PREMIUM PUPPY GUIDES

VOLUME 09 OF 10

The Puppy Grooming and Everyday Care Planner

Brushing, bathing, nails, teeth, skin, and gentle handling records

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

A printable planner for brushing, bathing, nail, dental, ear and skin observations, coat notes, grooming appointments, handling practice, supplies, and monthly review, with guidance on when to ask a vet or qualified groomer.

Part of The New Puppy Survival Kit.

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START HERE

Your puppy’s grooming and everyday care planner

Routine care is easier when it is short, predictable, and rewarded. This planner helps you record what you do and notice changes over time.

Grooming needs differ a great deal between a short-coated retriever, a curly-coated poodle, a wire-coated terrier, and a mixed-breed puppy. Coat type, breed, age, and your puppy’s own comfort all affect how often you brush, bathe, and visit a groomer. Use the logs as a starting point, and ask your veterinarian or a qualified groomer to help you set a schedule that suits your dog.

> **WHAT THIS PLANNER IS NOT**
>
> This is an organizer, not a medical tool. If you notice a lump, a painful ear, broken skin, a limp, or a sudden change in behavior, contact your veterinarian rather than treating it at home.

WORKFLOW

A simple grooming workflow

A short, calm routine done often is kinder to a puppy than a long session done rarely. Work through the steps in order, and stop before your puppy becomes overwhelmed.

Read left to right. Repeat the cycle at each session or check.

A five-step routine. Ears, eyes, and nails are only checked here; any cleaning or trimming should follow your vet or groomer's instructions.

TIPS FOR A CALM SESSION

- [ ] Choose a quiet time, after a walk or a meal rather than when your puppy is overtired.
- [ ] Use a non-slip mat, and keep one hand on your puppy for safety.
- [ ] Keep sessions to a few minutes, and end on a success.
- [ ] Reward every calm moment, not just the end of the session.

COAT

Understanding your puppy's coat

Coat type shapes how often you brush, how often you bathe, and whether a groomer is needed. Use this table as a starting point, then check with your vet or a qualified groomer.

Coat type	What it tends to need	Common notes
Short and smooth	Weekly brushing with a soft brush or rubber mitt	Shedding is often seasonal. Check skin folds if your puppy has them.
Double coat	Regular brushing, extra during seasonal shedding	Brush to the skin to remove loose undercoat. Never shave a double coat without advice.
Long or silky	Daily or every-other-day brushing to prevent tangles	Tangles close to the skin can be painful. Ask a groomer to show you a comb-through.
Curly or wavy	Regular brushing and periodic professional grooming	Curly coats mat easily, so brush the coat dry as well as wet.
Wiry	Hand-stripping or clipping, depending on the breed	Ask a groomer which method suits your breed and coat.

MY PUPPY'S COAT

Coat type (in my own words) _____

Groomer or vet advice received _____

Breed and coat type are general guides. Individual puppies vary, so note what you see at home.

RECORD

Brushing record

Log each brushing session. Note the tools you used, how long it lasted, and how your puppy responded.

Date	Time	Tool used	Minutes	Coat condition	Response

Response options to note: relaxed, wiggly, unsure, stressed. Write a short phrase if you prefer.

RECORD

Bathing record

Bath frequency depends on the coat, the skin, and the activities your puppy has been doing. Record what you use and any skin changes you notice afterwards.

Date	Product used	Water temperature (warm, not hot)	Puppy response	Skin or coat after drying

SAFETY NOTE

Use a shampoo made for dogs, rinse well, and dry your puppy promptly, especially around the ears. If your puppy has skin problems, ask your veterinarian which products are suitable before you bathe them.

RECORD

Nail care record

Regular nail care helps prevent discomfort and keeps your puppy comfortable on their feet. Many owners find that short, frequent handling sessions help a puppy accept it more easily.

Date	Who did it (me, groomer, or vet)	Method	Puppy response	Notes

TRIMMING SAFELY

The quick, the living part of the nail, can bleed when cut. Ask your vet or a qualified groomer to show you how to trim your puppy's nails, or to do it for you. Do not trim nails without guidance if you are not sure what you are doing.

- [ ] Handle each paw gently for a few seconds, then reward.
- [ ] Practice touching the nail area with a treat before any trimming.
- [ ] Ask your groomer or vet if your puppy's nails are long, cracked, or painful.

DENTAL

Dental care routine

Puppies can start learning to accept mouth handling early. Short, positive sessions make later dental care far easier.

- [ ] Lift the lips gently and look at the teeth for a few seconds, then reward.
- [ ] Introduce a soft, dog-safe toothbrush or finger brush only after your vet recommends a suitable product.
- [ ] Use only toothpaste made for dogs. Never use human toothpaste, which can be harmful when swallowed.
- [ ] Ask your vet about dental checks at routine appointments.

Date	Activity	Product (if used)	Puppy response	Notes

WATCH FOR CHANGES

Bad breath that persists, drooling, reluctance to chew, or swelling of the face or gums are reasons to contact your veterinarian.

OBSERVATIONS

Ear and skin observation log

Look at your puppy's ears and skin during grooming. Write down what you see, rather than trying to treat it yourself.

Date	Ears (smell, redness, discharge, head shaking)	Skin (rash, itch, lumps, dry patches)	Scratching or licking	Shared with vet?

ASK YOUR VET PROMPTLY ABOUT

A bad smell from the ears, head shaking, discharge, redness, hair loss, sores, lumps, or persistent scratching. Do not use home remedies or cleaning products in the ear canal unless your vet has told you what to use.

NOTES

Coat and skin notes

Use this page to track seasonal shedding, changes in coat texture, and anything you want to ask your vet or groomer about.

Date

Date

QUESTIONS FOR MY VET OR GROOMER

APPOINTMENTS

Grooming appointment record

Keep a record of each visit, including what was done and what to repeat at home.

Date	Groomer or clinic	Services	Puppy response	Home care advised	Next visit

GROOMER CONTACT DETAILS

Name _____

Phone _____

Address or notes _____

HANDLING

Gentle handling practice

Handling practice makes grooming, vet exams, and everyday care easier. Practice a few touches at a time, reward calm behavior, and stop before your puppy becomes unsure.

Date	Touch practiced	Who handled	Treats or praise	Response (relaxed, unsure, stressed)

- [ ] Practice touching paws, ears, muzzle, belly, and tail for a second or two at a time.
- [ ] Practice on different days, and with different family members.
- [ ] Include gentle lifting and holding, and pair it with rewards.

SUPPLIES

Grooming supply inventory

Note the grooming tools you own, what they are for, and when you need to replace them.

Item	Purpose	Suitable for my coat?	Date bought	Condition or replacement date

Choose tools with your groomer or vet's advice, and avoid tools that could cut the skin or pull on the coat.

WEEKLY

Weekly care checklist

Tick off the tasks each week. Adjust the list to match your puppy's coat and needs.

Task	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Typical tasks: brushing, face and eye check, paw and nail check, teeth or tooth brushing, ear look-over, handling practice.

REVIEW

Monthly review

Review your care logs once a month. Look for patterns, changes, and questions to take to your next appointment.

Month _____

Puppy's age (weeks or months) _____

ROUTINES THAT ARE WORKING WELL

_____

_____

_____

ROUTINES TO CHANGE OR TRY DIFFERENTLY

_____

_____

_____

QUESTIONS FOR MY VET OR GROOMER

_____

_____

_____

SUPPLIES TO BUY OR REPLACE

_____

_____

NOTES

Notes and questions

A space for anything else you want to record about grooming and everyday care.