



## Puppy's First Bath

Your puppy can have its first bath at 8 weeks old. If you need to bathe them before they are 8 weeks you need to make sure they don't get too cold or too hot. The younger the pup, the more difficult it is for them to regulate their body temperature.

### How often can I bathe my puppy and what type of shampoo should I use?

You want to bathe your puppy once a month. There are circumstances where you do need to bathe your puppy more often, the best to use is a Soap Free Aloe and Oatmeal shampoo specially formulated for dogs. You don't want to remove the natural oils in their fur, because they keep the fur from being dry and brittle. Never use human shampoo on your puppy. Your veterinarian may have other suggestions of different shampoos to use on your puppy depending on their skin condition.

### What supplies should I have when bathing my puppy other than shampoo?

- 🐾 Treats to reward your puppy for their good behavior or to help them associate bath time with good things.
- 🐾 Towel to dry your puppy
- 🐾 Bathtub, sink or kiddie pool to put the puppy in. Your puppy may splash around, and he/she will definitely shake the water off their fur.
- 🐾 A nonslip mat that will keep your puppy secure and not slipping around the tub
- 🐾 Brush that is appropriate for your puppy's coat to remove any loose hair or tangles.
- 🐾 Hair Dryer to help dry your puppy's fur. Be careful not to hold the hair dryer too close to the puppy, it can get too hot or too cold. Keep the hair drier moving. The sound of the hair dryer may scare a puppy so reward them with a treat often to keep the experience positive.

## How To Bathe Your Puppy

- 🐾 Offer plenty of praise and occasional treats. Bath time should be a pleasant experience for both you and your puppy.
- 🐾 Check the water temperature. Before placing your puppy in the bath, ensure the water is warm but not hot.
- 🐾 Scrub gently. Gentle scrubbing will clean and massage your puppy while helping them get used to being handled. This is also an excellent opportunity to check their skin. Feel for any lumps or rough areas and contact your veterinarian if you notice anything unusual.
- 🐾 Avoid washing his/her face. Even mild shampoos can irritate sensitive areas like your puppy's eyes. Use a damp washcloth to clean their face instead.
- 🐾 Rinse thoroughly. After massaging a specially formulated puppy shampoo into their coat, rinse them off completely. Leftover shampoo can cause dry, itchy, and flaky skin.
- 🐾 Prepare for the post-bath shake. Dogs dry themselves significantly by shaking, which can leave your puppy dry but everything else soaked. Try draping a towel over them and rubbing them dry before they shake.
- 🐾 Offer a treat. Reward your puppy for a successful bath with a special treat or a fun toy.