

GROOMING TIPS FROM A PROFESSIONAL GROOMER TO HELP WITH COOPERATIVE TRAINING

The little things you do at home can help put your dog on the right path for a positive and fun experience at your chosen grooming salon. The tricks and tips you'll find below are about desensitizing your dog to different sounds and touches they will experience in a grooming shop.

Using An Electric toothbrush

To help associate sounds and vibrations of tools such as clippers to groom your dog, you can use an everyday item such as an electric toothbrush. To begin, turn the toothbrush on and off, rewarding each time the toothbrush is turned on to add a positive association to the sound. Once they are used to the sound, we can pair a positive association with the feel of the vibration. With the toothbrush on, rub your dog gently, starting from the back end and working your way slowly to the head. If needed work on one area at a time and break it up into sessions. Focus on your dog's legs, feet, ears, and head. With time, your pup will be used to the sound, vibrations, and clippers will no longer bother them.

Using A Hairdryer

Dogs can get very upset during the drying process in the grooming salon as it is a loud and powerful tool. It is essential to start desensitizing your pups at home with a hairdryer to help. You will want to use plenty of rewards and make it fun. Start on low speed and gently blow the warm air around the back area of the dog first, eventually working your way to the head and all over the body, legs, feet etc. You can increase the speed of the hairdryer as your dog becomes more comfortable with it.

Handling their face

As small as it may seem, get your dog used to having their chin and face touched. When your dog gets professionally groomed, their groomer will hold the hair on the chin while cutting around the face with scissors. To get them used to this, start stroking and gently holding onto the chin hair for a few seconds, then reward them with a treat and praise. The hardest part of grooming a puppy is the face.

Paws & Nails

Dogs commonly do not like their feet being touched or their nails clipped. Whilst your pup is relaxed, start massaging their paw pads, touching the nails, and rewarding them with some tasty treats. You can then use the electric toothbrush to touch their nails to condition them for the nail grinder.

Cooperative dog training can also help desensitize as well as set you dog up for success not only at the groomers, but at the vet as well. For more information on cooperative training please feel to reach out to Taylor@proper-paws.com.