

**BRANDON ROE**

# **THE OFFICIAL DOG COAT & SKIN CARE GUIDE**

**A comprehensive how-to guide to help you  
take better care of your canine's coat and skin**



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# The Official Dog Coat & Skin Care Guide

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## **IMPORTANT**

This report is for informative purposes only. You should always consult your veterinarian for any problems you notice in your dog.

*About the author...*

## Who Is Brandon Roe?



Brandon Roe is a dog lover and recognized dog author living in British Columbia, Canada.

Having spent his childhood surrounded by dogs (his father was an obedience and tracking trainer), Brandon went on to found K9 KlearUp in 2008.

K9 KlearUp is a natural dog balm that helps dogs clear common skin problems such as hot spots, skin rashes, split pads and cuts. The balm has been recommended the world-over by veterinarians, dog-trainers, dog groomers and dog lovers alike.

In 2009 Brandon created the “Save 1,000 Puppies Campaign” to help under-privileged puppies get a second chance at life.

To read more about this campaign, Brandon or K9 KlearUp, please visit [www.k9klearup.com](http://www.k9klearup.com) for more information.

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*Introduction:*

## **What To Do If Your Dog Has Skin Problems**

*By Special Guest Author, Terrie Simpson*

Under all that copious fur there is skin. Skin that is susceptible to a myriad of diseases and afflictions just as we humans are.

The difference being that in humans we can readily see a health problem. In a dog, skin health problems are not readily apparent until the dog gives us an indication. Usually, the indications are excessive licking and scratching.

In general we humans tend to take our skin for granted.

If we go out into the sun, we use sun screen. If we have dry skin, we use a lotion. And occasionally we notice irregularities and then we go to the doctor. We're pretty complacent and tend to think of skin as the wrap that molds our body.

With dogs, the skin goes beyond being a mold. It is an organ in itself. This organ regulates the heat in a dogs body and works in conjunction with the foot pads which allow the dog to perspire.

As with humans the skin communicates sensations such as pain, heat, cold, touch, etc. to the brain. An animal's skin also processes vitamin D just as we do. When we take our pet to the veterinarian, one of the usual examinations done is one of the skin. When the veterinarian back brushes the fur he/she is not only looking for parasites such as fleas and mites, but they are also looking at the skin. Dry skin and fur can indicate illness. Yellow skin can indicate jaundice and blue skin can indicate heart problems. Rashes can mean allergies.

Dogs can have seasonal and environmental allergies as well as food allergies.



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Food allergies may not always be associated with new foods but can also come from foods they have eaten for years and have become sensitive to due to many reasons. So called "hot-spots", for example may be a result of a dog no longer being able to digest a certain food. Your veterinarian will recommend ways to test your dogs diet and recommend a course of treatment. Many dogs such as spaniels have seasonal and environmental allergies which can manifest themselves not only with sneezing and watery eyes, but also with skin rashes.

Allergies to fleas and medicines can also cause skin rashes. There are now veterinarians who are specializing in animal allergies and dermatology. Should your veterinarian find it necessary a referral could be made for diagnosis and treatment.

There are also genetic skin disorders and glandular skin disorders. There are several diseases associated with ovarian and testicular problems. Diagnosis and treatment can be made by your veterinarian. Dogs are also susceptible to various types of skin fungus. They are highly contagious to humans and other animals. Mange is another skin disease that is contagious. Quick diagnosis and treatment is essential.

In addition to the previously mentioned skin problems, there are also seborrheic (seborrhea) skin diseases, tumors, melanomas, infected sores, mites, etc., that can be diagnosed by your veterinarian.

**The purpose of this article is to make owners aware that the care and regular examination of your dogs skin is essential.**

Before buying a dog, consult with the breeder and a veterinarian. Know the diseases which are specific to the breed you desire. Know your dog's body as you should know your own. Check for skin problems during regular grooming.

If you find an area of concern, consult your veterinarian immediately. Do not make a self-diagnosis and start a course of treatment. Only a veterinarian can make a proper diagnosis and recommend oral and/or topical treatments. Delay in proper diagnosis and treatment can cause delay in recovery and possible spread of the ailment and unnecessary prolonged discomfort for your beloved pet.

*Terrie Simpson ([www.k9klearup.com](http://www.k9klearup.com)) has been involved in the dog world for over 28 years and has achieved numerous awards with her Springer Spaniels in tracking and obedience. Over that time, she has amassed a good amount of knowledge about how to keep a dog healthy. She is now happy to give back by sharing her experience with other dog owners.*

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## Chapter #1:

# Dog Hot Spots: How to Get Rid of Them Fast

## Symptoms

Does your dog have the following symptoms?

- Licking, biting and chewing a spot on the skin endlessly.
- The spot suddenly increases in a matter of hours, sometimes with pus inside.
- The sore may sometimes ooze pus or blood out.
- The hot spot loses hair.
- The sore smells funny.
- Your usually friendly hairball best friend is now bad tempered and growls at you when you accidentally touch him/her.

If your dog has these symptoms and if the spot seems to breed other spots like it, then your dog may be experiencing what veterinarians call *pyotraumatic dermatitis*, or hot spots.

A hot spot is a very annoying skin lesion that can grow rapidly if left untreated. These infuriating nuisances on your little pooch are not only making him or her suffer, it can also make your doggie friend look like he or she has a contagious disease.

## Causes

Here are 3 of the main causes of a dog hot spot:

1. Hot spots are usually seen in dogs that have furry coats like Shih-Tzu's or Pomeranians because they are more susceptible to get tangled and matted hair (that cause these irritating spots.) Also, dogs with long coats are more prone to have trapped dead hair inside the skin which is also something that causes hot spots.
2. Dogs with allergic reactions to house dust, household chemicals, commercial dog food and even plant pollen are also vulnerable to hot spots.

3. Other dogs are just plain hyper and will end up biting, licking and gnawing at themselves if left alone. This can also cause hot spots to appear.

### ***Solution***

If you see that your loyal four-legged best friend has a hot spot then you must act quickly. Below are steps you can take to treat this horrible condition:

- First of all, isolate the area by trimming the hair around the sore itself to prevent the spreading of the infection. Some find it easier to wipe away the fur if you put some water-based jelly on the fur that you will trim off. Trimming the hair around the spot not only makes it easier to treat the spot, it will also lessen the cause of itchiness.
- Clean the sore well by using a mild antiseptic soap. Thoroughly wash the area to make sure no residual soap is left that can cause further irritation.
- You need to dry out the sore so that it will not flame up and have some pus in it. Do this by applying wet tea bags on the sore.
- A number of natural products have also proven to be very effective against dog hot spots. Among these are witch hazel and apple cider vinegar. Tepezcohuite, which forms the foundation of one of my [pet related products](#), has also been found to be quite effective on hot spots.

### ***Prevention***

In preventing hot spots, you need to address the causes of course. So make sure you brush your furry friend's coat all the time to avoid tangles. Clean your home or the area where your pooch loves to play regularly. Give him or her proper exercise so your doggie pal will not get restless and mutilate his or her own skin.

So there you have it, some simple solutions to help get rid of a dog hot spot.

Your dog should be wagging his tail again in no time! :-)

**NOTE:** In this report, I will offer a few case studies to show pictures of what certain conditions look like. These photos were submitted to me by people who tried K9 KlearUp and reported their results.

## Case Study #1: Hot Spots



**Sheri from Binghamton, NY and her dog Sasha...**

*"My dog Sasha had a spot on her behind that was pretty good size... I really didn't know what she had but it didn't look good."*

Below on the left, you can see the spot. As the balm was applied, you can see the darkness leave the troubled area and return to normal (right-most image.) If you see a spot similar to the left-most image, your dog may have a hot spot. Please take immediate action if you see such a spot.



**BEFORE**



**IN BETWEEN**



**AFTER**

*"I started applying the K9 the minute I got it as she kept gnawing at her pee pee in which the spot was right next to it. After a couple of days, I starting noticing a difference and at the end of 1 week, it was cleared up and no more gnawing."*

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## Chapter #2:

# Dog Burns

*What are dog burns?*

*How do they affect our beloved pets?*

*And what can we do to prevent them?*

If you find yourself asking some of these questions, then this article is just for you. Here is what you need to know about dog burns.

## CAUSES

Similar to humans, dog burns are commonly caused by exposure to extremely high temperatures, radiation (due to overexposure to the sun for example) or exposure to strong chemicals like chlorine or similar products.

## SYMPTOMS

Dogs can experience two types of burns: superficial and deep.

*Superficial* burns are more painful but somewhat less serious compared to deep burns. As implied, damage can easily be found by singed hair or reddened skin. In this case, the heat was not enough to damage the follicles, thus keeping the fur intact on your dog's body.

On the other hand, a *deep* burn is a serious enough condition that it sometimes puts your dog in shock as a defense mechanism to the pain. In terms of physical signs, you may observe falling hair, bald patches or sometimes even open wounds in specific affected parts. In worse cases, you may also notice that the skin is not just "reddened" but that it also gets an ugly grayish color.

## SOLUTION / TREATMENT

Generally, superficial dog burns are easier to cure compared to deep burns. In minor cases you probably don't need to rush your dog to a veterinarian as they can be easily remedied by ice packs and topical ointment or antibiotics.

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After applying, you can secure the wound by applying a loose gauze. If your dog got the burn through a harsh chemical the first thing that you should do is to wash off the harmful substances with water. You can also neutralize some acids by using baking soda.

In the case of deep burns, make it a point to bring your pet to the vet immediately. Burns that reach this extent may have caused serious damage to the nerve endings of your dog. Your vet may need to perform several procedures to stop bleeding and to protect your pet from more infection. In addition, you must be open to the idea of having your dog's hair shaved, as this is a common procedure not only for dogs but in humans as well.

## **PREVENTION**

Prevention of dog burns is quite simple. Avoid exposing your pets under the hot sun for long periods of time. You also should keep them away if you are working with some harsh chemicals like acids or paint thinner for example. Keep in mind that these chemicals are not only harmful to their skin but they can also cause fatality if your dog accidentally ingests them.

In addition, please take the extra step of making your home fire proof, it may cause some money but you have to do it not only for the safety of your pets but for your family's as well. Remember that being a victim of fire is a terrible, terrible situation to find yourself into. So do not allow yourself - or your precious pooch - to be susceptible to this tragedy.

## Chapter #3:

# Dog Scratching 101: How To Help Your Pooch Defeat The Itch!

Dog scratching is a symptom in itself. But you'll know if this scratching is beyond the "usual" behavior of your dog (and could indicate an ailment) when:

- Continuous scratching and licking occurs
- Your dog also scratches the floor, carpet, or your beddings
- Your dog is already causing self-inflicted cuts, sores, and wounds because of his or her excessive scratching



### Causes

There can be several causes to dog scratching. The more common causes are parasites like fleas and mites, allergy-causing allergens, and anxieties either due to separation or other causes.

It is important that when you see your dog scratching beyond normal, you should consult your veterinarian to get a proper diagnosis and treatment for the scratching.

### Solution

There can be several solutions to dog scratching. However, in order to apply the right solution, you have to address the problem at its root cause.

If scratching is due to parasites like fleas and mites, the solution can be to:

- Control the growth and multiplication of these parasites either by natural means or treatment prescribed by your dog's veterinarian

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- Ensure that your dog is kept clean and well groomed at all times
- Clean the surroundings. A clean and hygienic surrounding is not only good for your dog, but also for your own health
- Feed your dog with a proper diet. Parasites thrive in dogs with a weak immune system. Give your dog the necessary nutrients to strengthen his or her immune system

If scratching is due to allergies:

- Identify the type of allergies. If it's a food allergy, try to introduce a change in diet
- Reduce your dog's exposure and contact to the allergens
- Maintain a clean and healthy environment

If scratching is traced to anxieties:

- Introduce behavior modification. Start training your dog to get used not being with you all the time
- Reduce your dog's anxieties

Chapter #4:

## Have An Itchy Dog?

### Consider These Grooming Tips Before Turning To Chemical Treatments

*By Special Guest Author, Alexandra DeBoer*

Many dogs today suffer from itchy skin caused by a variety of factors. Dogs actually have more sensitive skin than humans, and are often exposed to a variety of irritants in their environment. These grooming tips may help alleviate your dog's constant itching.



Brushing your dog daily will remove pollens, grasses, and other outdoor irritants as well as stimulating the skin's circulation and preventing matting. Brush carefully and down to the skin, taking care not to tug on tangles, and using a soft bristle brush on sensitive areas.

Bathing should also be done on a monthly basis, following a thorough brushing. Use a natural, low lather, low irritant shampoo, wet your dog down thoroughly with lukewarm water, and apply the shampoo using your hands. Avoid getting water or shampoo in his eyes and ears, and lather all over, right down to his skin, then rinse thoroughly. Shampoo residue is a major cause of skin irritation for dogs. After rinsing, towel dry your dog, and avoid using any coat finishers or blow dryers, which can also cause skin irritation in a sensitive dog.

Grooming is essential for a dog's skin health, helps you identify skin problems early on, and is a great way for you to bond with your dog as well!

*Alexandra DeBoer is the creator of a low-lather shampoo line for sensitive dogs. You can learn more about her company at: [www.barknbath.com](http://www.barknbath.com) or send an email [tobow-wow@barknbath.com](mailto:tobow-wow@barknbath.com)*

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## Case Study #2: Itchy Skin



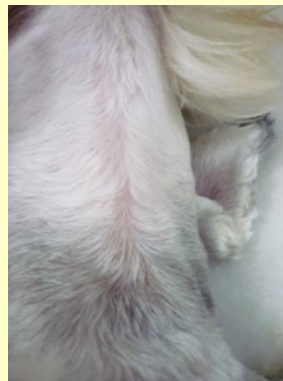
**Hailing from Malaysia, “Nottie Scottie” the Miniature Schnauzer...**

*“My other problem area ...ick! Itchy red bumps! Mom figured it could be tick bites as I always get angry red bumps like these from ticks, and since the tick season is in right now, I get these...>.<”*

Below on the left, you can see the bumps that were the cause of itchiness. On the right, Scottie's neck after K9 KlearUp was applied. Naturally, healthy dog skin should be without red bumps. If your dog's skin looks infected as in the left photo, please take action to clear your dog's skin.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

*“...the nasty red bumps have resided! Whoo!  
And I don't scratch as much as I used to too...”*

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*Chapter #5:*

## **A Dog's Misery Story: Dry Skin!**

Imagine you're in beautiful Aspen, Colorado for a ski trip. The sun is warm, the slopes are packed with powder, and the air is... wait, what? The air is dry!

Not only is your skin starting to dry up... you forgot your moisturizer... and all the stores in town are closed!

Well, when your dog's skin is dry, that's pretty much how it is for them. They have no little jar of moisturizer they can dig into at will... they're at your mercy to treat their dry skin.

Whenever you notice your dog's skin is dry (does your dog continually scratch at a spot? Do you see redness? Do you see shedding and flaking of the skin?), it's always a good idea to contact your veterinarian -- a dog's dry skin may be the symptom of a serious condition.

Your vet may have to undergo simple procedures in order to determine if there are unseen parasites causing your dog's dry skin.

Does your dog have any known allergies?

If so, double-check to make sure there are no allergens nearby your dog. By doing so, you may remove the source of your dog's dry skin.

You also want to make sure you groom your dog properly. If you are unsure about how to groom your dog, bring him to professional groomers and ask for tips and advices. This will help.

Make sure your dog's surroundings are nice and clean. This helps minimize risks of health risks - not just skin issues.

And finally, make sure your dog's water bowl is full and fresh! Simple, I know, but keeping your dog hydrated is always a good idea, especially when dry skin is concerned.

*Chapter #6:*

## Dog Bee Stings — How To Treat The “Not So Sweet” Problem

Dog bee stings may not be noticeable at first for the reason that your Fido may not show any signs of being in pain.

Just like humans, dogs can be allergic to bee stings that may result to a more serious health problem. The good news is that sting treatment in dogs is almost the same as treatments in humans who have been stung by these buzzing creatures. This article will help you locate and treat the bee stings in your pet.



*(Source: anthonyaudiojournal.com)*

First, you need to trace and remove the stinger.

A stinger looks like a black barb positioned in the middle of the sting. You can eliminate it by making use of your fingernail, spoon or credit card and scraping the surface of the skin where the stinger is located. Avoid pinching or compressing the stinger because it will elicit more toxins.

Some dogs may have no stingers left on their skin.

What you should assess is any allergic reaction that your pet may exhibit when stung by a bee. Signs or symptoms of allergy may include, but are not limited to, difficulty in breathing and swallowing, losing consciousness, asthma-like symptoms, excessive barking that can be followed by fainting, and inflammation around the area of the bee sting.

Occasionally, allergy in dogs brought about by bee stings can also cause seizures.

Dog bee stings should be immediately seen by a vet so appropriate medical treatment can be given. Keep in mind that home treatments will not be adequate when your dog demonstrates an allergic reaction.

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The medicines prescribed and given to dogs that are drawing out allergic reaction are steroids, epinephrine, and antihistamines. If you notice any of the above symptoms in your dog, it is vital that you phone the vet and ask them if they can recommend any medicine you have at home which you can administer to your dog promptly. You should also make arrangements with the vet to cure your dog right away.

If your Fido has been stung by a bee but does not show any indicator of an allergic reaction, then you can cure the injury at home. Use some ice to lessen the swelling, itching, and pain. To neutralize the 's acid, apply a baking soda paste to the affected area. When your dog is stung inside his mouth, you should look for allergy signs after a few hours. Note that inflammation caused by a mild allergic reaction can hamper your dog's airway.

Some dogs find it irresistible to snap at things flying in the air. If your Fido loves to do the same, you should be alert of bee activity when you leave your dog outside.

To prevent dog bee stings, you should trim the grass on your backyard and get rid of flowering weeds like dandelions that attract hornets and bees.

On your next vet visit, ask about a medical kit containing a medicine that can counteract the effects of bee stings. It's vital that you recognize how to administer this drug appropriately to prevent misusing it and offsetting an anaphylactic attack from bees without delay.

## Chapter #7:

# Dog Skin Problems: How to Treat Dog Skin Rashes

In this article I'll explore what may be causing your dog's skin rashes and suggest some ways to treat this annoying dog skin problem.



Say you have an itch that just won't stop. What you will most likely do (after almost scratching your skin off!) is go directly to the nearest pharmacy and ask the pharmacist for the most potent cortisone or antihistamine that their store has. Then you lather or drink that drug up like there is no tomorrow.

Having an excruciating back ache or a smashing headache is a nuisance but if you have a skin rash you feel very, very itchy and it's like you're in living hell and your nails aren't doing justice to what you feel.

Now imagine the same unbearable skin rash, only this time, you cannot go to your favorite pharmacy and you cannot just tell a doctor to treat you up because you cannot speak. Sounds like a real dreadful situation? Well, this is how your four-legged bundle of joy actually feels when he or she has a dog skin rash!

### Causes

Dog skin rashes are very difficult to treat because you never know what causes them. So, really the best thing you can do for your beloved dog is to prevent the skin rashes from occurring. Here are some ways on how you can avoid this from happening:

- The number one cause of dog skin rashes are external dog parasites such as ticks, fleas, lice and mites. To avoid these external parasites, do not let your dog play with strangers' pets unless you are sure they are not infected. Always keep your furry friend's house parasite free by cleaning it well and in case that parasites do attack, treat your dog with a tick and flea shampoo or cream.

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- Internal parasites can also cause dog skin rashes so to avoid intestinal parasites, make sure that both the water and food that your loyal dog takes in are clean.
- Comb or brush the coat of your dog regularly especially if your pup has thick and long hair. Tangled hair can cause the skin to become irritated which can lead to scratching.
- Find a shampoo that does not dry out your dog's skin if you like to bathe your doggie regularly.
- Make sure you buy good quality dog chow to boost your dog's immune system. Commercial grade dog food is usually just filled with extenders that have no additional nutritional value unlike good dog food.

### **Solution**

But a dog cannot avoid skin rashes forever. Even if you are the most attentive, cleanest and most caring dog parent, he or she will still get skin rashes at one point in his or her doggie life. So what do you do in times when your furry friend is scratching and gnawing at his or her skin like crazy?

- First of all, give your dog a bath. Find a shampoo that is both medicinal and at the same time, anti tick and fleas.
- Check the food that your dog eats. If you've just changed your dog's food brand, and he or she seems to have acquired the habit of scratching, then you may need to buy your old brand back because the new one is making your poor pooch itch. Better yet, consider some of the natural diets. Type in "BARF diet" on the Internet and you'll find a lot of great resources. Keep in mind that certain breeds are pre-disposed to certain allergies (I.e. Shih Tzus tend to be allergic to chicken). If, in any doubt, talk to a holistic minded veterinarian or nutritionist who can show you the proper meal plan.
- Some dogs are itching because they are restless. Giving your dog enough exercise might just do the trick.

So there you have it, some simple solutions to help get rid of a severe dog skin problem: skin rashes. Your dog should be wagging his tail again in no time!

On the next page you'll find a case study that shows a skin rash on a dog...

## Case Study #3: Dog Skin Rash

*"I had tried many types of creams for my dog's skin condition but it didn't seem to improve at all! On and off, he would get red rashes over the whole body and it seemed like his skin was forever snowing flakes."*

**– Jaslynn Lee**

Below on the left, you can see the red rash on Jaslynn's dog's belly. On the right, the belly free of the rash after the product was applied. If you suspect your dog has a skin rash, please have it examined and treated as soon as you can.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

*"...I found out about the KlearUp cream online and ordered one to try. Surprisingly, his rashes became not so red after a few applications. Due to my busy schedule, I can only apply the cream every other day thus slowing the speed of recovery. But nevertheless, I can definitely view the improvement!"*

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*Chapter #8:*

## **7 Ways To Eliminate Dog Dandruff**

This article examines dog dandruff and will suggest the 7 best ways to eliminate it, including prevention tips. So let's get started!

### **SYMPTOMS**

Dogs - like humans - are prone to dandruff, which is very similar in appearance as well. In most cases dandruff occurs when the skin cells die and start to flake off. Dandruff in dogs is nothing but a pile up of dead skin cells and when the dog scratches, more layers keep flaking off.

### **CAUSES**

The most normal cause for dog dandruff is the natural process of skin cells dying and flaking off. However, if the dandruff keeps recurring frequently then you have to watch out because there is definitely a more serious underlying cause at work. Some of these causes are:

- Allergies, parasites, infections
- Poor hygiene
- Low level of fluids in the body
- Low level of natural oils and fat in the skin
- Poor natural body nutrition
- Poor grooming and massaging of the skin
- Not bathed regularly
- The most common cause unfortunately, is improper grooming. Dogs need to be brushed regularly to stimulate the oils in the skin.
- Poor diet can also lead to dandruff - if the dog has only dry food

- Skin irritants like harsh shampoos can lead to dandruff

## **SOLUTION**

Here are 7 ways you can help eliminate your dog's dandruff:

1. As soon as you see signs of flaking skin cells or dandruff, give your dog a bath. Use slightly warm water and a mild shampoo. This should do the trick if it's a case of regular dead skin cells.
2. If the dandruff persists, try using a medicated pet shampoo with oatmeal sold specifically for this purpose.
3. Olive oil is very good for the dog's skin and can be massaged into the skin at regular intervals.
4. There are also specific [natural dog skin balms](#) that help clear up skin problems and you should have a look at these as well.
5. You also want to make sure your dog gets a balanced diet, not just a dry food diet.
6. Groom your dog regularly and make sure his living conditions are of a high hygienic standard.
7. Regular baths at reasonable intervals usually takes care of the problem.

*Tip: Sometimes your dog is just plain lonely and keeps on scratching itself. Spend more time exercising and playing with your dog.*

## **PREVENTION**

Regular grooming is really all that is required to keep your dog's coat healthy and shining. While it is good to bathe the dog regularly, it is not advisable to over-bathe...

Olive oil massages and a little olive oil in the food helps a lot in maintaining a healthier skin.

Make sure your dog gets a high quality meal that contains a good balance of proteins, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals.

Make sure that your dog always has plenty of fresh, clean drinking water - this will help to hydrate the skin. This is essential if you live in a hot, arid climatic zone.

Give your dog plenty of exercise.

It is recommended that you not take dandruff lightly. I suggest you monitor how quickly it reappears and, if the condition seems to be worsening in terms of fur loss, excess shedding, excess scratching and rash, consult a Vet immediately. Dandruff in dogs can sometimes lead to very severe illnesses like kidney failure so don't take it lightly.

*Chapter #9:*

## **How To Use Regular Grooming To Keep Your Dog Healthy**

*By Special Guest Author, Terrie Simpson*

The grooming procedure is not only a relaxing way to bond with your dog, it is also known to be stress buster for the owner. It has been rumored that people who have dogs have lower blood pressure.

Before embarking on any grooming tasks such as nail clipping, flea dipping, bathing, trimming, cleaning the eyes, ears, mouth and teeth, or anal gland expression always consult a professional.



Many reputable breeders, groomers and veterinarians will give basic instruction to a new owner to help maintain the health and appearance of their new companion.

Most owners, especially of long coated dogs take their pet to a professional for grooming. All dogs including short-coated breeds require some form of regular grooming. Grooming can be done professionally, but the benefits of learning some basic grooming techniques are bountiful.

Grooming tools should include dog nail clippers, a pair of blunt nose scissors for long coated dogs, a comb, and a brush suitable for the length of the dogs hair. Plenty of patience and TLC are also required.

Starting your dog on a regular grooming routine should be introduced by gradual short sessions. Try not to frighten the dog by forcing the issue. As the dog becomes relaxed with the routine, the sessions can be lengthened and other aspects introduced.

Brushing is an easy routine to start and it has many benefits. In addition to having a dog with a shiny, mat free coat, it removes loose hairs that might otherwise end up on your clothes, furniture or carpet. While brushing the dog

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the owner can check the skin for various skin disease, lumps, hot spots, fleas and ticks.

Depending on the breed, types of exercise, and whether the dog is an indoor or outdoor dog, bathing requirements will differ. Bathing too frequently will remove essential natural oils and dry the skin. Check with a professional for recommendations for your specific breed of dog.

Nail trimming is another grooming technique which is beneficial for an owner to practice. Before attempting to cut your dogs nails, it is a good idea to get professional instruction. Untrimmed nails can ingrow, curl down into the pads, and cause the toes to spread making it difficult for the dog to walk. Long nails can scratch the floor, people, and tear furniture and carpet. Most dogs and their owners are quite nervous about clipping the nails. Clip only a little at a time, being careful not only to cut into the vein. Cutting into the vein not only hurts the dog but will also cause a lot of bleeding.

Grooming methods, tools, and other aids will vary depending on the proficiency of the owner, the breed of dog, and the situation for which the grooming may be necessary. This column touches only on basic items. It cannot be stressed too lightly that a new owner should seek professional help before embarking on anything new with their dog, be it grooming or exercise.

*Terrie Simpson ([www.k9klearup.com](http://www.k9klearup.com)) has been involved in the dog world for over 28 years and has achieved numerous awards with her Springer Spaniels in tracking and obedience. Over that time, she has amassed a good amount of knowledge about how to keep a dog healthy. She is now happy to give back by sharing her experience with other dog owners.*

*Chapter #10:*

## **Time For A Dog Bath?**

### **Dog Bathing Tips For You And Your Dog**

*By Special Guest Author, Teresa James*

Cleanliness and proper grooming can be very important to the continued good health of our beloved pets. But bathing our puppy or adult dog can often prove to be a challenge. There are many questions, myths and opinions floating around when discussing the best care for different dog types and temperaments. Check out these dog bathing tips to get some great ideas so you'll be prepared for your next dog bath and grooming session.



#### **How often should you bath your dog?**

How often your pet will need a dog bath will depend on the breed and what type of activities the dog is involved in. It's best to bathe your dog only when your dog is really dirty. Just use your nose – that tell tale doggy smell will let you know it's time for a bath.

If a dog is bathed too often the skin will be stripped of its natural, protective oils. This will result in dry itchy skin, which will cause your dog to scratch, further irritating the already sensitive skin. If you need to bathe your dog more frequently make sure to use a pet shampoo that will also moisturize your dog's skin. You may also want to follow up with an after bath pet coat conditioner specifically formulated for dry skin.

#### **Where's the best place to bath your dog?**

In warm weather you can bathe your dog outside. Pick a place that will not turn to mud when it gets wet. It's a good idea to have a washtub large enough for your dog to stand up in and fill it with a few inches of water.

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Water straight from a garden hose may start off warm, but usually gets cold very fast. If your dog starts to resist and shiver, as the water gets colder, you may want to consider another option.

Many pet owners have overcome this problem by purchasing a raised dog bath. This convenient, back-saving dog bath is often used with a water temperature mixer valve assembly that completely solves this problem. With the proper equipment set up you'll be able to save your back and control the water temperature of your dog's bath. Some temperature mixer valve assemblies hook up to your existing washing machine water supply. At bath time just connect an ordinary garden hose to the valve assembly and run it outside to the bathing area. This convenient type of back-saving dog bath can even be used for bathing your dog inside.

If you choose to bathe your dog inside, regulating the water temperature shouldn't be a problem. But deciding where to bathe your dog might be. Small dogs and puppies can usually be bathed easily in a sink or a washtub. For bigger dogs you will need something bigger like a bathtub or a large shower stall. And of course, the bigger your dog is the bigger the potential hassles.

### **Are you tired of chasing and wrestling with your dog at bath time?**

Many dog owners solve this problem by purchasing a raised dog bath. An ergonomically designed dog grooming bathing tub elevates your dog to a level that's comfortable for you and keeps your dog securely contained, taking the hassle out of washing your dog. You'll get the job done in half the time, save your back and stay dryer. The raised dog bath that is available in most pet shops and online stores will also save your dog stress at bath time. No more slipping and sliding. Your dog will really feel secure standing on the padded non-slip surface. This type of raised dog bath has been recommended by Dog World Magazine in their "Notable Products for the New Millennium".

### **Does your dog tend to get away from you during a bath?**

Bathing your dog is a challenging, but essential, part of dog grooming. It's funny how your dog will cleverly evade you when you try to get him into a dog bath, but will be just as determined to get past you when you don't want him to jump into the water at the beach.

If you're washing your dog in a room with a door make sure to close it so that your dog will not see an escape route or get very far if he prematurely gets out of the bath. This way you'll have an easier time getting him back in the tub to finish the job. It can be a challenge bathing a dog that's wiggling around but the challenge gets a little tougher when your dog is an escape artist. If your dog takes any opportunity to get away from you at bath time you may want to consider restraining your dog.

Restraints are used during bath time to avoid injury to you as well as your pet. Some pet bathing tubs come with restraints included. With these your dog will be safely and securely restrained and you will be able to give your dog a quick and hassle-free bath.

### **Is your dog slipping and sliding in the bath?**

Slipping and sliding can be the most stressful part of bath time for a dog. Put a rubber mat down on the bottom surface of the tub to prevent your dog from sliding and getting hurt. A sure-footed dog will be less resistant and much more at ease during bath time.

### Things to have on hand at bath time:

- ✓ **Raised Dog Bath**  
This is a fantastic idea for a dog bath. It's ergonomically designed for both you and your dog's comfort. Your local pet groomer is likely to have just such a bathing station set up in their shop. If you're thinking about buying a tub or basin to bathe your dog in, ask them if you can check out their tub set up. If you have the room or more than one dog, you may find it worthwhile.
- ✓ **Pet Shower or Plastic Pitcher**  
A pet shower is great, but if that's not possible make sure you have a large plastic pitcher for wetting and rinsing your dog.
- ✓ **Drain Screen**  
Make sure to protect your plumbing from hair clogs with a simple to use drain screen.
- ✓ **Cotton Balls**  
Cotton balls can be placed in each ear to prevent water from running into your dog's ears.

✓ **Pet Shampoos**

There are many different pet shampoos each formulated to work on problems such as dry itchy skin, inflamed or dry scaling skin, fleas & ticks, doggy odor, skunk odor, abnormal shedding, quick rinsing for dogs that don't like to take a bath, whiteners for white coats, color intensifiers for dark coats, and coat shine to bring out the natural luster of your dog's coat. You may want to try a hypoallergenic shampoo/conditioner that will gently clean and conditioner your pet's coat in one step.

✓ **Coat Conditioners**

There are many pet coat conditioners that will help manage and or improve the appearance of your dog's coat like crème rinse, grooming spray, after bath dry skin treatment, and herbal mist conditioner that will soothe, re-moisturize and detangle your pet's coat.

✓ **Pet Drying Towels**

If you want to get your dog dry faster check out a specialty pet-drying towel. Some are available that will absorb 10 times its own weight in water!

✓ **Eye Protective Gel**

Are you concerned about shampoo making its way into your dog's eyes? Just put a little protective eye gel in each eye just before bath time to prevent burning and redness.

✓ **Ear Drying Solution**

If your dog is prone to ear infections make sure you have some ear-drying solution on hand. Using an ear drying solution will assure that the ear canal is nice and dry after bathing.

✓ **Brushes/Combs**

There are many different styles and sizes of traditional dog grooming brushes and combs that you can choose from. If your dog has very sensitive or irritated skin you may want to consider a higher quality brush that will not scratch the skin or aggravate existing skin irritations.

✓ **Pet Dryer**

If your dog has a thick, long or double coat it's best to use a pet dryer. Unlike "people" hair dryers, pet dryers are designed to use less heat and more air volume so they quickly and safely dry a dog without damaging the coat or burning the skin.

If you use a "people" blow dryer be very careful since you can easily burn your pet!

✓ **Plastic Bucket**

It's very convenient to have a waterproof container that will keep your dog grooming supplies close at hand.

Remember to get all your dog grooming supplies ready before hand and let your dog sniff everything.

**Why you should brush your dog thoroughly before bathing.**

Depending on the type of coat your dog has you may need an assortment of grooming brushes and combs to properly care for your dog's skin and coat. Before you bathe your dog it's always a good idea to brush your pet's coat thoroughly to remove any tangles or matted areas as well as any other foreign debris. Many dog owners know first hand that if they don't spend time removing old, established tangles and mats before bathing many times they just get worse. If your dog's coat tangles and mats easily make sure to look for shampoos and conditioners that are formulated to prevent and break up mats.

If your dog has gotten into any sticky or gooey substances like tar or gum never use commercial solvents or industrial cleaners on your dog's coat. Many of these are toxic to your dog. Try dissolving these substances with mineral oil. If you're unable to remove something from your dog's coat carefully snip away the affected area. It's always best to sacrifice some hair or fur since it will grow back rather than risk damage to the skin. Brush your dog thoroughly between baths, daily if you can, to distribute the natural oils and remove tangles, mats and foreign matter.

**Choosing the best pet shampoo/coat conditioner for your dog.**

Always use a pet shampoo that is specially formulated for the pH of your pet's skin. Never use "people" shampoos since our skin pH level is much more acidic than our canine friends and could irritate your dog's skin.

**Start bathing your dog at the beginning: Your Dog's Head.**

A popular bathing technique is to start at your dog's head and work your way toward the tail. This is especially the case if it's possible that fleas are present. If you know that your dog has fleas you may want to use a flea & tick shampoo.

Starting at your dog's head forces any fleas to gather away from your dog's face, eyes, and ears. It is much easier to dunk the rear of your dog into the tub than your dog's face. As you may imagine, your dog is likely to be much more cooperative by following this simple bathing technique.

Let your dog get used to the sound of the running water. If you're using a tub or basin fill it with a few inches of warm water. Then get your dog into the bath. If you're using a raised dog bath just secure your dog into the dog bath. Starting from the head thoroughly wet your dog with warm water. You can use a plastic pitcher or a spray nozzle for this task. If you're using a spray nozzle make sure the spray is not too strong. Never spray water directly onto your dog's face or genitals.

Apply a pet shampoo/coat conditioner. Follow the instructions on the package. Work it in from the head to the tail. Be sure to get all those nooks and crannies; like the rectum, between the toes, behind the ears and under the chin. Be careful not to get shampoo in your dog's eyes. If this is a concern you can protect your dog's eyes by putting some protective eye gel in each eye just before getting your dog into the bath.

Rinse your dog thoroughly with warm water. Shampoo residue can cause skin irritations so make sure you give your dog's coat a thorough rinsing. Towel drying your pet's coat in the dog bath will remove some of the excess water before you take your dog out of the tub. Some breeds should never be rubbed, only patted, since their coats easily tangle. Dog owners often prefer to use dedicated pet towels. There are pet drying towels available that will absorb 10 times their weight in water. These are very handy towels to use for a dog bath and can also be used any time your pet gets wet.

Although many dog owners think of bathing their dog as a challenge, with the right approach, supplies, and equipment, you can get through it relatively unscathed. And don't forget to reward your dog's good behavior in the bathing process with treats and plenty of loving kindness.

*Teresa James is the Webmaster of [www.Dog-Supplies-Advisor.com](http://www.Dog-Supplies-Advisor.com) a site dedicated to providing dog care advice on a broad range of dog-related topics. Includes articles, frequently asked questions, recommendations, and tips for dog owners. Free subscription <http://www.dog-supplies-advisor.com/free-dog-ezine.html>*

## Chapter #11:

# How To Heal Your Dog's Split Pads

*Today we're going to cover how to heal your dog's split pads. But before we get to that, let's look at what a split pad "looks like"...*



### What Does a Split Pad Look Like? (SYMPTOMS)

Split pads happen when your dog gets a shallow or deep cut on the paw... or when the hard part of the paw is falling off. Sometimes, this will be hard to identify unless you notice your dog limping as they walk or if they favor a specific foot.

In addition, when your dog's paws are injured, you may notice your dog licking the affected part for long periods of time.

### Why Did This Happen In The First Place? (CAUSES)

Split pads are commonly caused by accidental injuries that can happen while walking outside or at home. In addition, sharp edges of snow sprinkled with salt increases the risk of pad injuries (I guess now we know why some dogs wear "mittens"!).

### How You Can Heal Your Dog's Split Pads (SOLUTION)

1. If you notice your dog favoring a paw, try to find out why. If the pain is caused by a damaged pad, the first thing to do is to clean it off with warm and soapy water.
2. After washing, dry off the pad with a clean rag or warm air and then secure the wound with a bandage.
3. Once the wound is bandaged, take your dog to a veterinarian for further help. They may need to perform a deep stitch operation on the paw if a cut proves to be too deep... Depending on the severity, they may also prescribe antibiotics or topical treatments (look for natural ones.)

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If the cut or injury isn't that deep, you can try using a home remedy.

Generally, you just have to keep your dog's paw clean and maintain it by applying a topical ointment on it. Some dog owners also find herbal remedies like potato water (potato skin boiled in water) and geranium poultice to work well.

You should also stop walking your dog as he or she heals. (Putting excess pressure on the pad may cause the paw to bleed more...)

To help your dog heal faster, try to prevent any licking of the wound as this may cause further infection. If the bandages don't keep your dog away, you might want to consider using a lampshade collar until your dog's damaged pad completely heals.

## Case Study #4: Dry Cracked Paw Pads

**From the Netherlands, Kingsley the Border Collie...**

*“We have also used K9 KlearUp on dry itchy flaky skin (Robin has them), general itchiness, and on our paw pads, given the amount of walking we do in the woods or even on the hot summer cement ground.. and check out the difference it made!”*



*“...We deliberately used K9 KlearUp on 1 paw only to show you the difference.. and you can see it for yourself.*

*The right paw (leftmost in the picture) is dry and cracked.. and within 2 days of using the balm, the cracks on Robin's left paw has greatly diminished and looks so much better!”*

As the photo above shows, your dog's paw pads – like a human hand – should look soft, smooth and un-cracked (as on the right.)

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## Chapter #12:

# How To Get Rid Of Canine Acne

As humans we experience skin problems like acne at least once in our lives, but what most don't realize is that we aren't the only ones who need attention when it comes to annoying acne.

Believe it or not, our dogs also have the tendency to develop what is commonly known as canine acne, a skin problem caused by the blockage of hair follicles due to substances like keratin and sebum that are plugging debris within the pores.



This kind of skin disorder is common among certain breeds, particularly for 5 to 8 month-old English bulldogs, Boxers, Great Danes, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers.

So how can you tell if your dog has acne?

Dogs that have this kind of skin problem develop multiply blackheads or comedones in areas like the muzzle, lips, and chin. If left untreated, canine acne can develop swellings, scabs, and more blackheads, which normally do not affect the dog unless these develop into a secondary skin infection that could cause irritation, itching, and of course pain. If you think your dog's lips or chin have blackheads and swellings that might develop into a chronic type of skin disease, the best solution is to take him or her to the local vet for treatment.

Unfortunately, most canine acne cases cannot be cured entirely but it can be controlled with proper treatment and medication.

The vet would normally base his or her findings on the dog's blackheads, but for further assurance he or she might perform a skin biopsy on the dog. This is also to ensure that the canine acne isn't caused by more severe problems such as mite infestations (demodecosis), ringworms, puppy strangles, and other allergies that could be causing the blackheads and swelling to develop.

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**Here are some options for canine acne treatment:**

- The vet will usually recommend regular cleaning of the infected areas with anti-acne products such as benzoyl peroxide or mild anti-seborrhea shampoos in order to lessen and rid the dog of the bacteria that causes the plugging of debris within the skin and to remove such debris effectively.
- Antibiotics may be needed and prescribed if the canine acne becomes worse due to secondary skin infections that could cause incessant itching, scratching, and pain on the dog. The antibiotics are usually needed for 3 to 4 weeks, but there is a possibility that a swab test would be required for further observation. Make sure that the medications used are prescribed from a well-rounded veterinarian so as to prevent further pain and damage from happening to your pet.
- Of course, if things have gotten worse and you see your dog scratching endlessly on the infected parts (especially the face), it would be best to use an anti-inflammatory drug, which usually comes in the form of either a steroid cream or injection that will be able to lessen the discomfort your dog feels. Again, consult the veterinarian first before buying these drugs to ensure the safety of your dog's health.

*Chapter #13:*

## **Dog Scabbing 101 — What You Need To Know About Dog Scabs**

### **Causes**

If you've noticed scabbing in your dog's skin and other skin problems erupting all over your dog's body, it may be because of a developing skin infection caused by different factors such as the environment, the food that your dog eats, certain substances in the house that causes scabbing, or others.

There are a lot of reasons why dogs develop scabs such as abnormal sebaceous glands, parasites like fleas and mites, and severe sores due to irritants. So you need to know what the factors or changes are to be able to cure the disorder and prevent it from occurring again.

The thing about dog scabbing is that these are usually the end result of too much scratching and itching, which normally causes sores to develop in the areas where the scratching occurs the most.

Dermatitis, a general term for dog skin disorders, usually is the diagnosis for dogs that experience pain, itch, and irritation all over their bodies and would scratch endlessly, causing them to pull of their fur, lick and scratch raw skin, and develop sores that later on would develop into scabs.

Another explanation for dog scabbing could be flea bites that have healed over, so most likely there would be cases where you would find fleas dwelling within those scabs.

### **Solutions**

Here are some solutions that would help stop your dog from forming scabs and treating scabs that have already manifested in your dog's body for quite some time:

- What you can do to prevent dog scabbing is to give it regular flea baths in which the scabs would eventually come off on its own. It is important that the baths are done every one to two weeks so that the

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flea bites will be able to heal and be prevented in the future when your dog is ready to go out and play again.

- Try not to pull out too many (or at all) of the scabs as this is usually discouraged because of possible scarring, especially when the scabs haven't healed yet over time. Most vet nurses and practicing doctors would encourage dog owners to take their pets to clinics and veterinary centers for good treatment. Though this would be more expensive than home remedies, in most cases flea bites and scabbing heal faster with proper medication and treatment.
- Visiting the veterinarian is always a good idea, especially if you're handling strays, because they will be able to observe if the dog has other diseases and skin infections that could be causing the abnormal dog scabbing. Another reason why it is best to take dogs with scabs to the vet is because these scabs are normally caused by parasites like mites and fleas, so even humans could get affected by this skin disorder.

I also recommend you check out products that naturally help to [clear up dog scabs](#) by working with your dog's immune system. Some of these products will also help to relieve scratching and itching that accompanies or causes the scabbing.

## Conclusion

I hope you've enjoyed this report and found it informative. Nothing's worse than seeing your precious pet suffer, so I hope this will help you find a solution to your dog's skin problems.

I've included a parting gift on the next page for you, that you can claim today at absolutely no charge. I believe you'll find the information in this gift useful, if not essential.

It was a pleasure putting this report together for you. Please feel free to pass it along to your friends.

## **FREE GIFT!**



### **“Natural Ways To Care For Your Canine”**

**An in-depth, 41-minute audio recording with *Natural Veterinary Expert*, Dr. Moira Drosdovech. This interview is filled with insider knowledge on how to ensure a long, healthy life for your dog and avoid unnecessary illnesses.**

I've arranged a special interview with Dr. Moira, a 21-year veterinarian expert from British Columbia, Canada, who specializes in natural veterinarian therapies. In this interview, you'll discover:

- **Natural therapies that can *work wonders* for your dog**
- When it is appropriate to seek out conventional treatment for your pet... and when is not
- **How Dr. Moira healed a patient suffering from serious negative side effects due to vaccinations... in *just one afternoon!***
- How to fill your dog with the healthy food he needs fast *and* affordably
- **Emergency Signals: What serious warning signs to look for**
- The 3 best things to do to ensure your dog lives the *longest, healthiest* life possible

You'll receive this interview, ABSOLUTELY FREE, as a special thank when you sign up to the K9Kourier Ezine, *your source for relevant, up-to-date, and fun news about our beloved canines!*

You may claim this gift – a \$47 value – at the link below:

**Grab Your FREE Interview Now at**  
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Is your furry friend suffering from skin rashes, hot spots, itchy skin, scabs or split pads?

**“If You're Looking For a Guaranteed Way To Help Clear Up Your Dog's Skin Problems... Then K9 KlearUp May Be Right For You...”**

*For centuries, this secret "miracle" compound lay hidden in the ruins of the Mayan empire. Now, for the first time in modern history, this amazing compound is being used to stimulate healing in both humans and our furry friends...*



If you've had ever had a dog with a **skin or coat problem**, you know the frustration when the prescribed method of treatment does not work... or... ends up doing more harm than healing (we all know about the dangerous side effects of drugs.)

The honest-to-goodness truth is, the most effective remedies are ones that work *with* your dog's natural healing processes, not against them! That's why I've created **K9 KlearUp** — an all-natural skin care product — to work *with* your dog's immune system and help restore your dog's skin.

Now obviously K9 KlearUp won't work in ALL cases, but we've found a 95% success rate. That's why I'm comfortable extending you a full 1-year empty bottle guarantee, so you can try it and see out for yourself.

**Try It For Yourself Today — RISK FREE:**

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