

# Poodle Grooming

This was written by a professional groomer for your use.

If you are interested in learning how to groom your pet yourself, here are a few things you should know. It takes patience and understanding to be able to groom. It is a good idea to purchase a book that specializes in poodles. They have some good tips on grooming. Below is a supply list on what you need to do a basic kennel/puppy clip. Body is all the same length with clean face and feet, with topknot or just scissored head and pom tail.

## Supply List

1. Clipper (Andis is a good brand)
2. clipper blades (Osters work well)
3. greyhound or poodle comb
4. slicker brush with soft bristles
5. nail clipper
6. ear cleaner
7. ear powder
8. 7 ½ shears or whichever length is more comfortable for yo
9. styptic powder or Clotisol for when you clip nails
10. some form of coolant for your blades (I recommend Andis Cool Care)

All of these products can be purchased online. Here are a few websites I recommend:

[www.petedge.com](http://www.petedge.com)

[www.dog.com](http://www.dog.com)

[www.groomerschoice.com](http://www.groomerschoice.com)

[www.ryanspetsupply.com](http://www.ryanspetsupply.com)

[www.groomstar.com](http://www.groomstar.com)

You will save money by going through one of these websites to purchase your products.

## To Groom Your Pet Follow These Steps

1. Use your slicker brush to brush over the body and legs.
2. Take your comb and comb thru the hair to make sure there are no snarls or matting. (Note: NEVER BATHE A DOG WITH MATS!]. When mats get wet they get condensed. This makes them tighter and harder to get out.
3. If there is matting use your slicker brush to go over the matt gently. Then use your comb to go thru it. Repeat this process until there are no more mats.
4. I would suggest that you clip nails before the bath. This way if you accidentally get the nail to short and it bleeds you can wash it off in the tub or in your deep sink with your sprayer if you bathe your dog there.
5. I would also pluck the hair in the ear before the bath. (Poodles grow hair in there that needs to be pulled. Hair in the ear will hold moisture that can cause ear infections.) You will place ear powder directly into the ear and pull out the hair with your fingers or a hemostat. If you do not feel comfortable doing this yourself contact your local groomer or veterinarian.
6. Place your puppy in the tub or sink and wet him/her down with water.
7. Using a shampoo (specifically for dogs) wash him/her. Make sure you get in the groin area as

well as between the toes and armpits. (**Do not** use human shampoos on your pet. Dogs have a different pH balance than we do and using our shampoo will dry out their skin.)

8. During this process if you feel comfortable you can express the anal glands. (I would wait until your puppy is at least one year of age before you do this). Again, if you do not feel comfortable ask your local groomer or veterinarian to help.
9. Rinse and repeat. I do recommend shampooing him/her twice. This gets them cleaner and you will be able to tell the difference when you do this.
10. Once they are rinsed completely [not getting all the shampoo or conditioner off can cause dry, itchy skin) take a towel and dry off as much as possible.
11. You can use a hair dryer on the lowest setting to dry them as well.
12. Once they are completely dry you can begin to shave your dog.
13. Start with the #10 (1/16"). Use this for the face, feet and privates. **NEVER USE ANYTHING SHORTER THAN THIS ON THE FACE OR PRIVATES!** If you do, you can give your pet clipper burn. On the feet you can use either a #15 (3/64"), or a #30 (1/50"). Do not use the #30 on white poodles; they have more sensitive skin which can easily be irritated. If you do not feel comfortable doing this contact your local groomer.
14. From here you can decide what length you want the body to be. Here are your choices.
  - A. #3 3/4 blade leave 1/2" on the body. This will give a short, fluffy look.
  - B. #4 blades leave 3/8" on the body. Also will give a short and fluffy look.
  - C. #5 blades leave 1/4" on the body. This will give a short velvety look.
  - D. #7 blades leave 1/8" on the body. This is a very short flat look.
  - E. #10 blades leave 1/16" on the body. This is also a very short flat look.

**NEVER USE ANYTHING SHORTER THAN #10 BLADES ON THE BODY!**

15. Once you have the body completely shaved you scissor the head and ears to your liking.

If you have any questions talk to your local groomer or you can give me a call [Angela Pike] at 507-254-1736 or email me at [angel200410@charter.net](mailto:angel200410@charter.net).