

All Puppy Bulletin

Subject: Bath Time

Using a shampoo with harsh detergents and chemicals is not a good choice for you or your dog. Harsh chemicals can be irritating, drying and can cause itching, rashes and allergic reactions. Using chemical free, organic shampoos makes the skin and fur softer, shinier, less dry and sweeter-smelling from all the natural herbs and plant oils. The government sets toxicity levels for chemicals, so while dogs may be exposed to tiny amounts of chemicals in shampoo, dye in food, preservatives in treats, chemicals in carpets, detergent in bedding, all these build up in the dog's system.

You can easily find gentle, detergent and chemical-free shampoos made with natural botanical ingredients, many of them organic, so they are also pesticide-free. Natural and organic shampoos contain plant extracts and moisturizing botanical oils rather than animal-derived and chemical products. Organic shampoos replenish moisture in the skin. If the product is USDA certified organic, it must meet rigorous standards to earn that label. Look for ingredients that are recognizable or defined such as coconut, olive, neem, tea tree or jojoba oils. An additional benefit of natural and organic grooming products is their earth-friendliness. Avoid products that contain parabens or formaldehyde - chemical preservatives; phthalates - artificial preservatives; EDTA - chemical stabilizer; SLS or SLES - chemical detergents; propylene glycol - solvent also used in antifreeze; DEA, MEA, TEA - ammonia-based foaming agents.

A long rinse cycle is very important to get all the shampoo out of a thick coat. A brush and a spray attachment can help get all the way down to the skin. Rinse, rinse and rinse some more because left over product residue can cause skin irritation. Protect the ears by putting cotton balls in the ears to keep water and shampoo out.

Bath time is a great time to bond with your dog. Offer lots of praise and encouragement, give favorite treats as a reward at the end of the bath and even during the process. Before you know it, your dog will love this special time with you.