

# CARE FOR YOUR PUPPY

## *GROOMING*

Grooming is always necessary, and not just for good looks. It removes debris such as dust, dead skin, loose hairs and burrs: prevents serious tangling and matting: massages the skin and improves muscle tone: reveals parasites and other problems: and most certainly gives the puppy a sense of wellbeing.

Long-haired puppies

❖ Brushing, combing and stripping

- It is necessary to brush and comb the puppy daily to remove the loose hair. Another advantage of daily grooming is that carpets and household furnishings are kept relatively free of puppy hair.
- The use of a saw-toothed stripping comb will help remove loose hairs, and stripping is essential in hot weather when heavy-coated breeds may suffer from excessive heat.

Short-haired / wire-haired puppies

❖ Combing

- May be brushed or groomed with a rough mitt.
- The wire-haired puppies need grooming with a very stiff brush and metal comb.
- Daily grooming is desirable.

## *BATHING*

Bathing is not usually recommended for pups under 6 months of age in certain climates but in the tropics, it is advisable to bathe your puppy once a week to help prevent skin problems. Use a proprietary shampoo and rinse off each application thoroughly. Towel dry and finish drying with a hairdryer.

## *ORAL HYGIENE*

All pups benefit from being accustomed to having their teeth cleaned with a toothbrush and water from an early age. Regular cleaning helps prevent the build-up of plaque and, when they are a little older, tartar. If tartar deposits accumulate, the result will be receding gums, loosened teeth and very bad breath. Pups most at risk are those of the short-faced and toy breeds which inevitably have overcrowded teeth.

## *CLIPPING AND TRIMMING*

Puppies claws needs clipping as they mature, so use a nail clipper. For long-haired pups use scissors to trim hair between the digits to prevent it from becoming uncomfortably matted, and around the anus to prevent matting due to dried faeces,

## ***THE HEALTHY PUPPY***

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Abdomen   | Rounded, not bulging; soft and flexible, not taut or drumlike; no swelling around navel.  |
| Anus      | Clean, with no staining, scouring, or matting by dry faeces; it is normal for pups to sniff under tails to identify other dogs by anal scent.   |
| Appetite  | Enthusiastic for food; no undue scavenging; no vomiting.  |
| Breathing | Quiet and even when at rest; no laboured breathing; no coughing; it is normal to pant to cool down.   |
| Claws     | No splitting; no overgrown claws.   |
| Coat      | Clean, pleasant-smelling; free from parasites, loose hairs and dirt; soft to the touch, not stringy or brittle.   |
| Demeanour | Curious, alert, vital; quickly responsive to sounds and calls.  |
| Ears      | Alert to slightest sound; clean, with no brown or yellow deposits; head and ears held in normal position; no scratching, rubbing or shaking of the head.  |
| Eyes      | Clear, with no cloudiness of the cornea; not unduly sensitive to light; no discharge or weeping; not bloodshot.   |
| Faeces    | Consistently formed; colour varies according to diet; should be passed regularly two to four times daily.   |
| Movement  | Tends to be very active in short spurts with rest periods between; young puppies may sleep 16 out of 24 hours; gamboling, uncoordinated movement normal; young pups tend to fall over their own feet; no limping or lameness. |
| Nose      | Condition depends upon environment: likely to be cold and damp out of doors, warm and dry indoors; no persistent discharge; nostrils not blocked by dried mucus.  |
| Pads      | No matting of hair between the digits due to contamination by mud, tar or grease; no cracked pads.  |
| Skin      | Loose and supple; clean, without scurf, inflammation, parasites, or sores.  |
| Teeth     | Clean and white; gums pink  |
| Urine     | Straw-coloured, not cloudy; no blood in the urine; passes urine frequently, with no difficulty; both sexes tend to squat to urinate until puberty, when the male begins to “cock his leg”.                                    |

## ***FEEDING***

### **The balanced diet**

The constituents of a balanced diet are protein, fat, carbohydrate, vitamins, minerals, water and roughage.