



Guide to Grooming your Bernedoodle

Grooming your Bernedoodle can be a pleasant and fun experience for you both if you want it to be! Starting your puppy off young is so important! Getting them used to the whole experience of brushing/maintenance and going to the groomer having their nails, feet, face, ears touched and manipulated is essential.

PLEASE BE AWARE... your puppy will need to go to the groomer every 6-8 weeks and yes, it can be spendy but it is also necessary! Grooming doodles (not just shaving them down) is definitely a pro skill and some are better than others. You get what you pay for in a lot of cases.

DOODLE TIP #1:

Do NOT freak out when your Doodle comes back looking "weird or naked". It grows back faster than you know (and sometimes wish) and they seem to enjoy a nice shave down once in a while (especially in the hot summer weather). They come home dancing, and you're crying? Don't do it. Haha! It'll grow back looking really nice in just a few weeks. 👍❤️

DOODLE TIP #2: Groomers

Find a good groomer who is not only gentle with your dog, but also won't charge you an arm and a leg just to shave them to the skin. If you want your puppy to have a perfect "Teddy Bear" haircut, you have to help your groomer by combing them out at home once a week, at least! Going to the groomer regularly (every 4-8 wks depending how long you want to keep them) helps as well. Also consider your Doodle's coat type. The more wooly or curly, the more grooming is needed.

Don't expect to go in there after 4 months of not grooming them at home at all, and expect a miracle! They will most likely come home shaved if that's the case. Just expect it.

Ask your friends who own Doodles if they have any good Groomer references. If not, ask in our family group, or do your research online. Do not just take them to any old Petsmart or Petco. I am sure some have good groomers. I just prefer, and have had better luck, with supporting local, small business owners.

I tell our groomer "shave the body $\frac{7}{8}$ length, leave the tail, head in a Bichon Teddy Bear head, and keep the feet round."

DOODLE TIP #3: GROOMING TOOLS

Brush your Doodle out from root to tip with a Steel Tooth Comb at least once a week. Especially if you want, or plan, to keep them in a longer clip year round. The best is the Andis Steel Tooth Comb

 Finish them off, and fluff them out, with a nice slicker brush. The best comb is by Chris Christensen, but it is spendy. A cheap one will also work. Just get one that's not too sharp. You can test them, and your pressure, by running the brush on the skin of your forearm. Slickers can give them skin burn if you use too much pressure, or if a brush has too sharp of pins. Make sure not to go over the same spot more than twice, and be gentle.

Also, get a dematting comb to cut out any mats that you can't get out of the ears and tail with the steel tooth comb or slicker in between your trips to the groomers. Don't put them through aggressive dematting sessions. It's time to shave them down if they've gotten to that point. We like the GoPets Dematting Comb.

DOODLE TIP #4: BATHS

Don't wash your ADULT Doodle at home *UNLESS* you're also going to comb them out (from root to tip) and then blow them dry completely. Water can actually make small mats even tighter and bigger, and make them start to develop more quickly if they're not combed out after a bath.

Use a gentle shampoo and a good conditioner. I like Tropiclean Dematting Spray and the EarthBath brand Shampoo & Conditioner.

DOODLE TIP #5: EAR CARE

Doodle's ears can trap moisture under their heavy coated ear flaps and ear infections develop and become common (more with some than others) depending on how thick their coats are and the weather as well.

EAR INFECTION TREATMENT AND PREVENTION:

I HIGHLY recommend Zymox for ear infections (better than most medicines vets have prescribed my dogs). I will put a few drops in their ears once a month, even when they don't have an active ear infection, just to make sure they don't develop one. If your dog is shaking their head a lot, walking with their head tipped, or pawing at their ears, they probably have an ear infection. This is the most common health issue with Doodles.

 So, I also recommend a good ear cleaner, and the best I've found is called Epi-Otic ADVANCED Ear Cleanser

Clean their ears whenever you think of it, or basically, once every couple weeks, and also after swimming or bathing. I used to recommend ear plucking, but for some dogs, this actually seems to cause them to get ear infections more, so now we just trim the hair short around their ear canal and leave the hair in their ears alone. The more you pluck the more the hair inside seems to grow.

Hot Spots? Best treatment I have found is called WONDER BALM (it's not cheap but either is the vet's office)

You can find all of these products linked in the Grooming section of our Puppy Essentials tab on our website!

Products

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Andis Steel Tooth Comb [Link](#)

Christensen Slicker Brush [Link](#)

GoPets Dematting Comb [Link](#)

Tropiclean Dematting Spray [Link](#)

EarthBath Shampoo & Conditioner [Link](#)

Epi-Otic ADVANCED Ear Cleanser [Link](#)

Zymox [Link](#)

WONDER BALM [Link](#)

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