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## Overview

This standard describes the role of preparing and bathing dogs. During these processes, you need to look for and recognise signs of infestation and take the appropriate action. This may mean using an appropriate shampoo or treatment if this has already been agreed with the client or taking steps to obtain authorisation to do so.

Throughout the standard, your responsibility to monitor and maintain the health and safety of yourself, the dog and others in the area is emphasised.

Where necessary, the decision to clip off the dogs coat should be in line with the organisation's policy.

The elements are:

1. Remove excess hair, knots and tangles prior to bathing and grooming
2. Bathe and clean a dog's coat and skin

Element 1 covers how to prepare a dogs coat ready for bathing and grooming using a range of techniques and equipment whilst promoting the health and safety of the groomer, the dog and others. It includes appropriate and safe handling techniques, identification of coat types, signs of health and any abnormalities.

Element 2 is about bathing and cleansing a dogs coat and skin by selecting the correct products for the coat type and correct product usage. It includes safe handling techniques which promote health and safety for the dog, groomer and others, preparation of the environment for bathing, types of protective equipment and clothing, basic dog anatomy and physiology and effective communication between the groomer and client.

### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

#### **Remove excess hair, knots and tangles prior to bathing and grooming**

- P1 confirm that the environment and the equipment to be used is clean, ready for use and is secure and safe for both you and the dog
- P2 handle dogs in a manner that promotes their confidence and co-operation and the health and safety of all throughout
- P3 report promptly to the appropriate person when examination of the coat reveals an abnormal condition
- P4 use **techniques and equipment** in a manner appropriate to the dog's **coat type** and condition and for the style that is to be achieved
- P5 use **techniques and equipment** in a manner that minimises discomfort for the dog
- P6 trim excess hair to avoid the occurrence of friction knots and burns and to maximise the dog's comfort and hygiene
- P7 return the dog to the correct location to await collection or further grooming
- P8 sterilize and clean equipment used in accordance to company procedures
- P9 ensure equipment is stored in a good working and that any faults are reported to the appropriate person

*You must be able to:*

#### **Bathe and clean a dog's coat and skin**

- P10 confirm that the environment and the equipment to be used is clean, ready for use and is secure and safe for both you and the dog
- P11 recognise any factors in the environment that pose threats to health, safety and security and report to the appropriate person, taking remedial action where possible
- P12 use the correct protective equipment and clothing in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines and organisational policy
- P13 select **cleansing products** appropriate to the dog's **coat type**, condition and client preferences
- P14 handle dogs in a manner that promotes their confidence and co-operation and the health and safety of all throughout
- P15 recognise when examination of the coat reveals an abnormal condition and seek advice from the appropriate person
- P16 dilute **cleansing products** according to the manufacturers' instructions and use them with water at the correct temperature and rate of water flow
- P17 externally check anal sacs and report any physical abnormalities to the appropriate person
- P18 remove dirt and debris from between the toes and pads
- P19 clean the coat and skin thoroughly in a manner that minimises distress to

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- the dog and promotes the health and safety of all throughout
- P20 take the appropriate corrective action immediately should **cleansing products** enter the eyes, mouth or ears of the dog
- P21 rinse all residues from the coat and skin where appropriate and remove excess water from the coat prior to drying
- P22 report any problems occurring during the procedure to the appropriate person
- P23 return the dog to the correct location to await collection or further grooming
- P24 sterilize and clean equipment used in accordance to company procedures
- P25 ensure equipment is stored in a good working and that any faults are reported to the appropriate person

### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Remove excess hair, knots and tangles prior to bathing and grooming**

- K1 why it is important to approach and handle dogs in a manner that promotes their confidence and co-operation and the health and safety of all throughout
- K2 why a dog's coat should be bathed before trimming and when a dog's coat should be removed prior to bathing
- K3 why the coat type and style to be achieved affect the methods of preparing coats and equipment that should be used
- K4 equipment used for removing knots, tangles and dead hair, the correct selection and techniques for their use
- K5 how to groom out a coat, removing knots, tangles and dead hair without injuring the dog
- K6 why clipping off and rough trimming are sometimes necessary and why the age of the dog may influence the decision
- K7 how to judge the correct amount of hair to be clipped/scissored off and why it is important not to remove too much
- K8 equipment for removing excess hair, its selection and correct techniques for use
- K9 why particular care is required when removing excess hair from around eyes and ears
- K10 the steps that should be taken in the event of accidentally cutting the dog or self
- K11 how friction burns occur and how they can be avoided
- K12 the importance of removing excess hair for the dog's hygiene
- K13 normal signs of health and signs indicating the dog should be referred to a veterinary surgeon
- K14 abnormal conditions such as external/internal parasites and lesions
- K15 how to clean equipment and correct storage methods

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Bathe and clean a dog's coat and skin**

- K16 the protective equipment and clothing required when bathing a dog, its purpose and why it is important to use it correctly
- K17 the potential threats to health, safety and security in a bathing area (such as slippery floors/surfaces, electricity) and steps that should be taken to minimise the threats
- K18 why it is important to approach and handle dogs in a manner that promotes their confidence and co-operation and the health and safety of all throughout
- K19 different types of cleansing products available, their purposes and the types of coat and conditions for which they are suitable

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- K20 how coat type and the condition of the coat and skin affect the cleansing products that should be used
- K21 the importance in following manufacturers' instructions regarding dilution of cleansing products, how to correctly interpret these instructions, and the possible consequences of not doing so
- K22 why it is important to obtain authorisation from the client or a senior colleague before using anti-parasitic products
- K23 the external examination of anal sacs, what is normal, when expression maybe necessary, why it is done and the possible consequences of doing it incorrectly or ignoring their poor condition
- K24 the importance of preventing solutions entering the dog's eyes, mouth and ears and why it is important to tell the client if this happens
- K25 how to check that all residues have been rinsed from the coat and skin unless contra-indicated by manufacturers' instructions
- K26 methods to remove excess water from the dog prior to drying and why it is important to do this
- K27 basic dog anatomy and physiology sufficient to be able to identify abnormalities
- K28 signs and symptoms of basic skin problems and infestations
- K29 why it is necessary to check the anal glands, eyes, ears, skin, teeth and gums
- K30 the limits of your role when informing clients of possible abnormalities and conditions (i.e. not diagnosing) and the importance of referring clients to a veterinary surgeon
- K31 how to clean equipment and correct storage methods

### Additional Information

#### Scope/range related to performance criteria

#### Remove excess hair, knots and tangles prior to bathing and grooming

1. **techniques and equipment** to remove knots, tangles and dead hair:
  - 1.1. comb and brush
  - 1.2. scissors or thinning scissors
  - 1.3. clippers
  - 1.4. by hand or stripping tools
  - 1.5. de-matting tools
2. **coat types:**
  - 2.1. wool
  - 2.2. wire
  - 2.3. silk
  - 2.4. double
  - 2.5. smooth

#### Bathe and clean a dog's coat and skin

3. bathe and clean a dog's coat and skin using the following **cleansing products:**
  - 3.1. normal shampoos
  - 3.2. anti-parasitic shampoos
  - 3.3. conditioners
4. **coat types:**
  - 4.1. wool
  - 4.2. wire
  - 4.3. silk
  - 4.4. double
  - 4.5. smooth

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## Prepare and bathe dogs

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