

Gilbert St Gossip

Top tips on bathing your dog!



While we are on the topic of spa baths we thought we'd share our top tips for making bath time easier with your pooch.

- 1. Choose the right shampoo** - never use human shampoo (even baby shampoo) as it's the wrong pH for your pooch. If your dog is itchy, oily or has sensitive skin, we can recommend the most suitable shampoo for your dog.
- 2. Pop some cotton wool in your dog's ears** to prevent any water sneaking into the canal - don't forget to take it out after you've finished.
- 3. Provide a non slip surface** - put a towel on the bottom of the bath, or a non slip mat to help your dog feel more secure and prevent slipping.
- 4. Place a towel over your dog** to prevent water going everywhere when the inevitable shake occurs.
- 5. Jam some steel wool in the plug hole** to catch the wet fur and

make cleaning up easier.

If you need any more information about bathing your dog you can always ask us for the most up to date advice. We'll even make sure your dog is clean enough to sleep in *your* bed!

Can I bathe my cat?

When it comes to cats and water, things can get pretty hairy! Most cats hate being immersed in water and find the bath an incredibly stressful experience. Thankfully **you don't really need to bathe your feline friend** as they are equipped to take care of their own personal hygiene. They have a rough surface on the top of their tongue that acts as a brush.

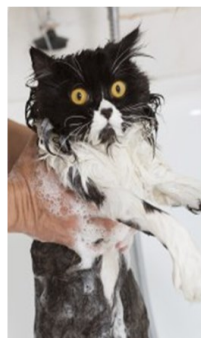
Having said that, some cats are better at grooming themselves than others so **you may need to groom your cat from time to time** to help remove dead hair and prevent matting. This is especially the case with longer haired cats. Matting can cause pain and discomfort, and in some cases, your cat may need sedation to have any matting clipped off safely.

Some tips to remember:

Always check for matting in the armpits and around the bottom. If your cat is overweight or arthritic she may not groom herself properly. A decrease in self grooming can be a sign of illness or pain - call us if you are concerned.

You should **NEVER wash your cat in a flea shampoo** as these are almost always pyrethrin based and **ARE POISONOUS TO CATS**. You should also be aware that dogs bathed in pyrethrin shampoos can be a source of poison for your cat if she licks and grooms your dog. It is best to avoid using flea shampoo if you have a cat around.

Call us if you think your cat might have some grooming issues - we are always happy to help.



Creating the best cat toilet



When it comes to the loo, cats can be fastidious. They tend to like a quiet and private area (who doesn't?) and most prefer plenty of soil to cover things up.

If your cat uses a litter tray, there are some golden rules you should follow to help prevent any problems.

Provide a tray for every cat in the house plus an additional tray - two cats should have three trays; Place the tray in a quiet area ; Remove faeces daily and change the litter entirely every 2-3 days; *Never use cleaning chemicals in the tray - rinse with warm water; Don't use fragranced litter or plastic liners as cats hate these.*

Some cats hate a covered tray as it traps the smell, while others prefer the security, so you might need to see what works for your cat.

Remember that **cats are very clean creatures** and prefer deep litter and a

large tray to toilet so they can bury their urine and faeces - this is usually why a sandpit is very attractive.

Finally, if your cat isn't using the litter tray correctly you should ask us for advice. There may be other medical issues such as a urinary tract infection complicating the problem or in some cases anxiety, both of which need veterinary treatment.

Patient of the Month



Keesha is a lovely elderly Australian Cattle Dog. She developed an aural haematoma, which is a swollen ear caused by bleeding. It can happen when a dog gets an ear irritation and shakes their head a lot.

Keesha had surgery to remove the leaked blood and stitch the ear tight against an ear pad. She coped really well and did a great job of keeping her buster collar on for 2 whole weeks.

Then the stitches were removed- this took a long time but Keesha was kept happy with lots of treats.

The ear is now nice and flat, and once the hair grows back it should look back to normal.

For more information go to our website.

