



PLANET K9 DOG TRAINING

GROOMING

Grooming does not need to be a battle between you and your dog. For owners of long haired breeds grooming is something that you will need to do regularly for the life of your dog. It is well worth your while to spend a few weeks teaching your dog how to be calm and confident while being groomed.

Follow these steps to gradually change the association of grooming from an unpleasant to a positive experience. If you have an older dog that is very unhappy to be groomed you will need to work through these steps slowly over a period of weeks.

THE BATH

'Getting your puppy into the bath'

Paste something yummy such as peanut butter or liver pate (for the more discerning pooch palette) over an old bread board. Place the bread board at the end of the bath. Help your dog into the bath and encourage him to lick the yummy treat of the board. Repeat this step over a few days until your dog is eager to jump into the bath.

'Desensitizing puppy to the hose'

Using warm water place the bath hose firmly on your dog's chest and gently massage. Most dogs enjoy a rub on the chest. Chat away in a jolly voice while you shampoo the chest area. Resist the temptation to wash the whole dog – remember we are aiming to change the association your dog has with bath time. If we rush things at this stage we will undo all our good work.

If your dog is now happy to jump in the bath and have a short wash it is time to wash the whole dog. Remember to reward him with treats for being nice and calm.

Teaching your dog to stand still will make grooming easier.

To teach the cue 'stand' begin with the dog in the sit position. Show him that you have a toy or food treat in your hand and lure him forward. As he raises his rear off the ground and moves into position say 'stand' then praise and reward him. Repeat this step until Rover is consistently moving into the 'stand' position. Now using exactly the same hand signal but without the treat in your hand – ask him to stand. If he does so reward him.

If not keep practising. Over several training sessions ask your dog to remain in the 'stand' position for longer periods of time.