

## Grooming Your Pet

Ruxton Animal Hospital · 8014 Bellona Avenue · Towson MD 21204  
410-296-0890 · 410-296-0892 fax · [www.ruxtonanimalhospital.com](http://www.ruxtonanimalhospital.com)

**Bathing:** If you bathe your pet at home, protect his/her eyes with mineral oil and plug the ears with cotton. You may obtain mineral oil from us in a dropper bottle. We recommend Epi-Soothe Shampoo for general bathing. Towel, blow, or air dry your pet. We also offer in-hospital bathing.

**Brushing:** We recommend a slicker brush for dogs and cats. We have two sizes available. Get your pet used to being brushed at a young age, if possible. Frequency depends on the length and type of coat, but at least once a week is recommended.

**Nails:** A pet's nails should be cut periodically. We recommend a Resco Nail clipper. In our experience, less expensive, off-brand nail clippers are not as sharp as the Resco clipper. We have a regular size for cats and small dogs, and a larger size for big dogs. Follow the directions on the back of the box. Replace the blade or the entire unit when it becomes dull. We are happy to clip your pet's nails for a nominal charge. While regular nail trims are recommended for cats, a cardboard scratching post is also recommended. Declawing a cat when indicated is best performed when they are spayed or neutered. See separate Declaw sheet.

**Dental Care:** Brush your pet's teeth at least three times a week. Regular dog toothbrushes, finger brushes, and cat sized toothbrushes are available from our hospital. Flavored toothpaste that your pet can safely swallow is also available. Our staff will be glad to demonstrate or explain how to brush your pet's teeth. Regular brushing prevents future plaque build-up by as much as 65%. Most pets need to have their teeth scaled and polished under sedation about once a year in addition to having their teeth brushed at least three times a week. See separate dental form.

**Clipping:** If your pet's fur becomes matted and/or your pet requires a general clipping, we are able to provide you with that service. The cost varies with how long the procedure takes and how many staff members are utilized. Rarely, sedation is necessary. No pet will be sedated without first obtaining the owner's permission and necessary bloodwork. For a fancy or special clip, we can refer you to a professional groomer.

♥ Thank you for entrusting your pet to our care ♥