



Shampoo Choices

There are dozens of choices in the shampoo aisle for pets. For routine bathing, any general cleansing pet shampoo will work. This will also help remove pollen and dust from allergic pets. You may need to follow up the bath with a moisturizer or conditioner if your pet's skin is dry.



If your pet has a skin problem, you may need a medicated shampoo to treat the problem. Ask us what type of shampoo your pet needs. It's important to match the shampoo to the skin problem.

Medicated Shampoos

Several things in certain medicated shampoos will help bacterial infections of the skin. These include benzoyl peroxide, chlorhexidine, ethyl lactate, iodine, salicylic acid, or sulfur. Salicylic acid and sulfur are usually together as they work better together than either one alone. Benzoyl peroxide can be irritating. It is usually best to use a moisturizer along with benzoyl peroxide due to its drying effects. It can also bleach fabrics.

For yeast infections, you need a shampoo with ketoconazole, miconazole, sulfur, or iodine. Chlorhexidine will also help if it's a concentration of 2-4%.

If your pet has oily skin, you want something that will degrease it. Benzoyl peroxide, ethyl lactate, and selenium sulfide will do that.

For dry skin, colloidal oatmeal and oils (olive, jojoba, etc.) will help moisturize it.

Pets that have dry, flaky skin need ingredients that are keratolytic and keratoplastic. That means they help to remove scales or dandruff and slow down their production. That list includes benzoyl peroxide, ethyl lactate, fatty acids, salicylic acid, sulfur, and selenium sulfide.

If your pet is itchy, several ingredients will help including benzoyl peroxide, colloidal oatmeal, hydrocortisone, pramoxine, and sulfur.

Some conditions are benefited by shampoos that flush the follicles. Bacterial infections are a primary one. It can be helpful for some problems caused by mites as well. Benzoyl peroxide is one of the best products for doing this. Ethyl lactate and sulfur also do it.

As you can see, most of the ingredients do several things and help with several problems. Some medicated shampoos are designed to treat several problems at the same time. Again, it's important to talk with a veterinarian to decide which product will be best for your pet.

Bathing

When using medicated shampoos, make sure the lather gets to the skin and leave it there for at least 10 minutes. Some medicated shampoos don't produce as much lather as general cleansing shampoos do so don't worry if you aren't producing lots of suds.

Medicated shampoos are made to treat skin problems, not for general cleansing. Rinse thoroughly and then apply a moisturizer or conditioner if needed as directed.