

Bathing your Bull Terrier

By Lisa Burke

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So your Bull Terrier needs a bath.

I have found that Bull Terriers LOVE hot baths. They do not like cold water or cold shampoo. The best advise is to start them early, as young as possible.

I wash my dogs in my bathtub. I have an extended shower hose that you can buy separate that is attached to my hand held shower. They are very inexpensive. You can buy them at Home Depot for \$10- \$20. The extra long hose allows you to bath and rinse your dog completely without killing your back. Make sure you have a thick mat to kneel on; otherwise your knees will kill. You also want to have at least 3 big towels to dry your dog off before he runs through the house soaking wet. I use one in the tub before he gets out. I then put that on the floor of the tub and make him stand on it to wick the water away from his feet. I then get the second towel and wrap his body in it and proceed to help him out of the tub. They are less slippery with the aid of the towel. I then use the third towel to really dry them off. Bullies love a good towel scrub.

I like to warm the bottle of shampoo in a small bucket of hot water. This way it will be nice and warm when you put it on your dog. If you buy a good quality shampoo you will only have to lather him up once. I like Bio-Groom Protein & Lanolin shampoo. It is tearless and rinses out fast. It also has a low fragrance, hypoallergenic and leaves a wonderful shine.

I wash their body first. I always have plenty of yummy treats handy by the tub, easy enough to grab to occupy them. This helps with their next bath. Bullies can't resist something yummy and they will be waiting to jump in the tub if they know they are getting a hand full of yummys. So lather, scrub and rinse.

To wash their face I always leave this for last. Bullies don't really like having water running down their noses. The way their nose is shaped the water just seems to head right into their nostrils. I only put the tiniest amount (Pea size) of shampoo in my hands and rub together with a little water and then I rub the Bullies face with my hands. Acting quickly I gently put my free hand on top of their nose and rinse. As I am doing this I gently apply pressure on the nose to bring the head down towards the chest. This helps keep water out of their ears and out of the nose by covering it. You could put a half of a cotton ball in each ear to prevent any water spray from getting in. I would do this for the first few tries washing your Bully. By the 3rd time you should be an expert. If you don't feel comfortable washing their face in this manner you could always just use a face cloth, small clean rag or paper towels to just wipe their face with warm water. Bullies faces are rarely dirty. They may not need this at all.
Scrub a Dub-Happy Bully washing.