

THE WASHCLOTH

For some people this could be a very important article, because they cope with dogs that are quite itchy. I have come to believe that most of the dogs with severe itching that is distributed all over the body are suffering with a combination of Atopy *and* dry skin.

I think we have gotten caught in another situation where we transfer human technologies and behaviors on to animals and that is, the *use of shampoo to cleanse a coat of hair*. That's just how *we* do it, it's not the best for dogs. They depend on natural oils in their coat for waterproofing and protection from irritants as well as maintaining moisture in their skin. Keep in mind they do not have a consequential number of sweat glands so their skin moisture is *completely* dependent on the residence of their oils in their coat.

So my proposal is that shampoos are probably *not* the best way to go when keeping a dog clean and beautiful.



I have found that, equally effective is just a *damp washcloth*. It tends to spare the oils the pet needs for a healthy coat but removes ground level micro pollution and even a modicum of dirt and grime. That's not to say that dog or cat will never need a bath. If the dog gets covered in something disgusting obviously it is going to require something more aggressive than a wet washcloth!

As I was contemplating the use of a wet wash cloth as the primary means of managing a dogs coat, I realized that we had to find a way to *exfoliate* the skin or at least potentially address that issue. *Not all dogs need to be exfoliated*, up to a certain age they are excellent naturally, and their skins are beautiful under their furry coat.

Back in the olden days people barely ever bathed their dogs at all, choosing instead to **brush them**. On reflection, there would be *no better way* to naturally exfoliate a dog then brushing!

Far more effective than a shampoo, stimulating blood flow to the skin, removing dead hair, and then after brushing, simply remove the dander and exfoliated skin with a wet washcloth, under all of the above circumstances you have completely spared the natural oils in the coat.