



# Bulldog GROOMING

## Bathing your bulldog

by Faye Richardson

### Seven steps to bathing your bully

Keeping your Bully clean is essential for good health. Since many bulldogs suffer from skin problems, use a dog shampoo that is detergent-free. Detergents can dry out their skin. **Never use baby shampoo.** Baby shampoo can strip out the natural oils and dry the skin.

There are a few brands of shampoo such as Solid Gold Super Gentle Shampoo and Bio-Groom's Natural Oatmeal Anti-Itch Shampoo that work well with bulldog skin. All of these supplies can be ordered from [www.kvvet.com](http://www.kvvet.com).

#### List of supplies:

Oatmeal Based Shampoo  
(made by BioGroom or Solid Gold)

Cotton balls

Paper towels

Epi-optic ear cleaner

Spray Mink oil (by Bio Groom)

Opticlear eye drops

Towels

Blow dryer

1. Gather all the supplies you'll need before beginning: shampoo, vaseline, cotton balls, ear cleaner and towels or chamois. You don't want to leave you dog unattended in the water while you search for your supplies.
2. Place cotton balls in your bully's ears. Bulldogs do not like water in their ears. Preventing this will help keep their association with baths positive.
3. Lather their body with a non-detergent oatmeal-based shampoo and thoroughly rinse out all the soap. Be sure to clean under their tail and between their toes. Make sure you remove all soap or it can dry their skin. Wash their face seperately with a wash cloth. This will help you control the soap so it doesn't get into their eyes. Bulldogs usually love water but any negative association such as soap in their eyes will make them shy away from a bath the next time.
4. Dry your dog thoroughly with a towel. You may use several towels to get them completely dry. Blow dry on low heat if your Bully does not mind the hair dryer.
5. Remove the cotton balls from your dog's ears and pour in some ear cleaner until some runs out. Massage the bottom of the ear drum to loosen the excess dirt. Then take a soft paper towel, roll it into a cone shape and gently push it into the ear to absorb all the liquid. Repeat until the ear is clean and dry (about 3 times).
6. Wipe under their tail with a paper towel to remove all dampness. It's important to keep the tail clean and dry. It can be a source of discomfort for your bully if hair or dirt is allowed to accumulate under the tail.
7. Finish with a nice rubdown to stimulate the dog's natural oils. Mist their coat with mink oil to help moisterize their skin.