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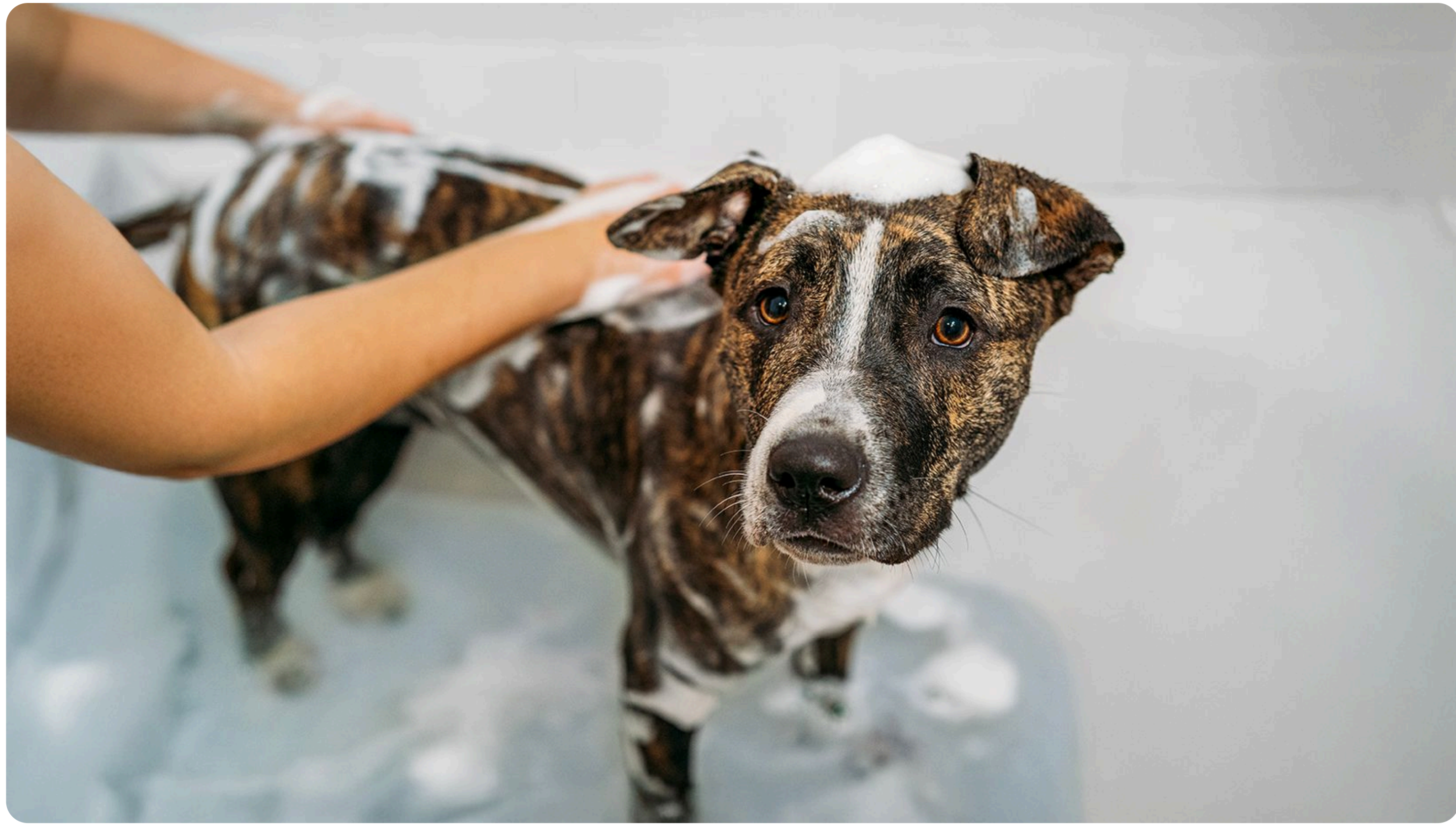
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Your guide to choosing the right dog shampoo



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Your guide to choosing the right dog shampoo

Tips on keeping your canine healthy, clean and cute.

Most dogs love to get dirty, so keeping its coat healthy and clean is going to be up to you. Regular bathing and dog grooming keep your pup looking good and smelling great, and it's essential for promoting healthy skin and eliminating dirt and allergens.

When it comes to bathing your canine companion, it's tempting to think that one shampoo is as good as another. But there's a vast range of dog shampoo products out there and choosing the right one takes a bit of sleuthing. Not to worry – this guide can match you up with the right shampoo for your pet.

Factors in choosing the right dog shampoo.

There are three things you want to consider when choosing a dog shampoo.

- **Your dog's skin:** Humans think of shampoo as haircare, but with dogs it's really a skin care product. And like humans, dogs come with lots of different skin conditions. Shampoo for a dog with dry and itchy skin will be all wrong for a dog with more greasy or oily skin.
- **Your dog's coat.** Is your canine covered in coarse curls or silky-fine fur? Are tangles a problem? You'll want to pick a dog shampoo that matches the character, color and luster of your pup's coat.
- **Fragrance.** While you may appreciate an aromatic shampoo, your idea of what smells great may not match your dog's. Some pets have skin sensitivities so fragrance-free options might be the best choice for those pets.

Types of dog shampoo.

You'll likely be surprised by just how many varieties of non-medicated and medicated dog shampoo you'll find as you browse the [dog grooming supplies](#) aisles at your pet supply store or online.

- **All-purpose** shampoos provide basic cleaning for dogs with healthy skin and coats.
- **Deshedding** shampoo is made with ingredients that help loosen and remove undercoat during bathing, allowing the fur to be brushed out more easily.
- **Hypoallergenic** shampoo – dog shampoo for allergies – is free of ingredients that are known to cause allergic reactions in dogs.
- **Antimicrobial** shampoos are medicated dog shampoos that your veterinarian may recommend and are available for dogs with certain skin conditions. Examples of these shampoos include anti-microbial or anti-seborrheic.
- **Anti-itching** shampoos relieve itching and inflammation due to insect bites, allergies and other conditions.
- **Moisturizing** shampoos help rehydrate and soften skin.
- **Anti-seborrheic** shampoos treat flaky, scaly skin by breaking down the buildup of dead skin cells.
- **Tick and flea** shampoo for dogs helps to treat persistent infestations.
- **Waterless** shampoo or dry shampoo for dogs can help alleviate certain skin conditions while making it easier to clean your pup more often.
- **Deodorizers** breakdown foul odors at the molecular level.
- **Conditioners** may make it easier to comb through a dog's hair after bathing.
- **Puppy** shampoo is specially formulated for the sensitive skin and eyes of young dogs. Ensure you choose the product that is labeled for the age of your puppy. Just like babies, puppies have different shampoo needs. Some dog shampoos are labeled for puppies that are a few weeks old, while others are labeled for dogs that are several months old or adults.

Tips on choosing the best shampoo.

1. **The best dog shampoo is actually a shampoo for dogs.** It seems obvious, but shampoo for humans is designed for human skin, while dog shampoo is formulated for the very different pH levels of a dog's skin. Using your personal shampoo on your dog will upset the balance of oils in its coat, dry out its skin and may even cause some skin conditions to worsen.
2. **Avoid unsafe ingredients.** All dog shampoos are not created equal. Pay attention to the ingredients of the shampoo you choose and avoid artificial colors and fragrances, as well as sulfates, parabens and phthalates. For those pets with sensitivities, choosing hair care products made with natural ingredients may be the safest.
3. **Don't scrimp.** There's a significant difference in pricing for shampoos, and it may be tempting to go with a bargain. But you don't bathe your dog that often, choosing a high-quality but more expensive product won't cost you much more in the long run.
4. **Look for vet-approved products.** Endorsements by veterinary or pet care organizations can help guide you to trusted products.
5. **It never hurts to ask.** If you're overwhelmed by the many choices for dog shampoo – and we understand why you might be – you can always ask for advice from your veterinarian or from a trained [PetSmart associate](#) or [Pet Stylist](#).

FAQs

What dog shampoo do groomers use?

Professional groomers use a variety of shampoos, tailoring the product to each dog's skin and coat and to any allergies or skin issues a dog might have.

What human shampoo can I use on my dog?

It's best not to use human shampoo on your dog. Human products are designed for the pH balance of human skin, which is significantly different than your dog's skin. Using human shampoo can disrupt the acid mantle that keeps your dog's skin hydrated and protected from viruses and bacteria.

How often should you bathe your dog?

How often you bathe your dog depends on its breed, type of coat and lifestyle. Bathing a dog too frequently can alter the natural coat conditioners and lead to dry skin. Puppies or dog who get dirty more often can be bathed once a week if need, but make sure to use a conditioner if the skin appears dry. Most dogs are okay with a bath every one to three months.

Do dogs need a conditioner after a shampoo?

[Dog Conditioners](#) aren't strictly necessary, but they can be helpful for dogs with long coats that are prone to tangles or for those pets who need to be batched more frequently.

There are many different options when it comes to choosing the best dog shampoo for your pet. If you are feeling overwhelmed, [PetSmart Grooming Salons](#) is a great option. Our experienced stylists can properly groom your dog, with services to include pedicures, bathing only or a full bath and haircut.

PetSmart has additional grooming tools to help properly clean your pup and keep them healthy. These include [dog brushes](#), combs and [hair clippers](#).

Need other dog supplies while you're shopping for dog shampoo and conditioner? PetSmart also carries [dog treats](#), dog food, dog playpens, poop scoopers and lots of other essential dog products.

PetSmart also offers convenient shopping with Curbside Pickup or in-store pickup. Need something today? We have select items available for Same-Day Delivery in most areas powered by DoorDash. For items you purchase frequently, PetSmart has Autoship that automatically delivers the items you want to your door as often as you'd like. Check the website to see which items are eligible.

Information in this article is not intended to diagnose, treat or cure your pet and is not a substitute for veterinary care provided by a licensed veterinarian. For any medical or health-related advice concerning the care and treatment of your pet, contact your veterinarian.

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