

# Speed and Efficiency

Organization	Skill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment is ready and set up so that it is easy to access.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Have a set place for each piece of equipment.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment is clean, and in good working order.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Make sure all supplies are ready.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Be ready for work.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review the complete trim history before beginning the pet.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Work purposeful and with intention.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> For every nail, commit to the cut.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Use a liberal amount of ear powder and pluck small bits of hair quickly over plucking large amount of hair in the ear canal.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Get the coat squeaky clean. This will speed the drying process.</li></ul>
Timing	Routine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Have a plan before you begin.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Look at your day's schedule in advance.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Read your notes on each dog in the beginning of the day.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Know how long it takes you to complete each procedure.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a routine you follow for every dog.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 6 Weeks or less; ears, nails, tub.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 6 Weeks or more; ears, nails, prep, tub.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 3 passes or less. (Drying, Brushing, Clipping, and Scissoring.)</li></ul>

## Time-Saving Tips

### For Prep work:

- Get the dog to the tub as quickly as possible. In the case of a **6 week or less small pet**, **5-8 minutes** should be enough time to do the nails, ears and privates.
- On a **6 week or more pet**, you may take up to **15-25 minutes** to do the prep work and quickly knock off some of the bulk of the coat to minimize wash and dry time.

### In the Tub:

- When wetting a pet down, don't worry about getting them **TOTALLY** saturated if you dilute your shampoo. Diluting shampoo allows for the water to act as a distributing agent of the shampoo, allowing for even saturation.
- If washing twice, you don't need to rinse every trace of shampoo from the coat on the first sudsings, only enough to remove the bulk of the dirt build up.
- Apply water or shampoo in the same order - every time. Let gravity do the work. Start at the back, down the legs, under the tail, ears and face.
- When rinsing the shampoo, let gravity do the work when wetting and rinsing a dog. Smaller dogs, stand them up and let the water run from their shoulders.
- Have a method that you use to wash every dog and follow it every time. Repeating the same method **EVERY TIME** builds consistency, effectiveness thoroughness and speed.
- On heavy coated dogs that are matted or shedding heavily, use your HV dryer in the tub to remove mats and loose fur. On the second lather, blow the shampoo from the coat. The force of the air combined with soap will allow the tangles to slide free and contain the mess on heavily shedding pets.
- Utilize your hands or some sort of squeegee to aid in the speedy and thorough removal of shampoo.
- Keep the water nozzle close to the skin.

### Towel Drying Tips:

- Use a moisture magnet or towel to take off the majority of the moisture.
- Use a second towel to be really effective. Press areas gently but firmly with a towel that hold moisture. ex. ears, feet, head, and tail. You should be able to see the separate strands of hair when the proper drying has been completed.
- There should be no visible water spraying off the dog when you begin high velocity drying.

### High Velocity Drying Tips:

- Turn the HV dryer on for just a few moments before starting to dry the pet. This will allow the air to warm the dryer up.
- Introduce the pet to the HV dryer slowly if it is a new pet or seems nervous.
- Work from the shorter coat into the longer coat.
- Work from the base of the tail towards the head and shoulder area.
- Place a towel under a larger dog to catch the drips as you dry with the high velocity dryer.

- With heavy coated dogs on the initial pass with the HV dryer, hold a towel behind the area being worked on to catch the spray that will blow onto other areas of the pet or to other pets in close proximity.

#### **Clipping Tip**

- Keep the clipper blade up on its "cutting edge." The higher the blade number, the higher the heel of the blade is lifted off the pets' skin.
- Guard or attach on combs are rocked back on their heel, lifting the sharp teeth up slightly so they glide smoothly over the pet.

#### **Scissoring Tip**

- Utilize your guard combs to remove the majority of the coat before scissoring them!
- Thinning shears are a professional pet stylist's best friend. They thin, they blend, they soften – not only are they a great tool – they are your erasers.
- When scissoring front legs and feet, block off each area first. Think in the terms of squares, and then take corners off and round out the area.

#### **De-Matting Tips**

- If water can penetrate a mat or tangle, leave it until after the bath. Let products and high velocity drying techniques do the hard work for you – then brush gently and lightly once the coat is clean.
- Hard, tight mats that water cannot penetrate need to be removed prior to bathing.

## **The 3 Pass Class**

#### **Drying:**

- **1st pass goal:** Work your way around the dog starting from the top down to the bottom, removing excess water that is still in the coat. (Focus is on removing excess water.)
- **2nd pass goal:** Work your way around the dog and separate the coat so that you can see each individual strand of hair. You will also want to utilize the condenser cone to remove any loose under coat and break up matting. (Focus is on removing undercoat and drying the strands of hair.)
- **3rd pass goal:** Remove the condenser cone and place the dryer as close to the skin, without twisting the coat and work on getting the root of the hair and skin dry. Make sure to work the hose in a slow circular motion as not to stay in one area of the skin too long. Work around the dog and start with the shorter coat and work into the longer coat. If you have used a happy hoodie, remove this and dry the head and ears in your final pass around the dog. (Focus is on drying the head, the skin. At this point the dog should be completely dry to the touch. Let the hair and skin cool, so that you can feel for any moisture that is remaining.)

### Brushing:

- **1st pass goal:** Work your way around the dog starting from the bottom of the dog and working your way up, for example, on a leg, start at the toes and work up the leg. Use the Pat and pull technique. See pages, 50-51 Notes from the Grooming Table. (Focus is on removing mats and undercoat.)
- **2nd pass goal:** Work long coat, usually the head, tail, and ears. Start at the outer edges of the fur and work in towards the skin. (Focus is on removing matts and undercoat.)
- **3rd pass goal:** Using your comb, work from the bottom of the dog starting with the shorter coat and working onto the longer coat. If you find an area that has a tangle or undercoat, turn the comb sideways and use it as a pick to separate the coat. If you find an area that the requires the slicker brush, focus on that area with the brush and then check again with the comb. (Focus is on ensuring all the mats and undercoat is removed.)

### Clipping:

- **1st pass goal:** Set up the coat. See page 48 Notes from the Grooming Table. Remove the bulk of the coat. Slightly overlap your clipper strokes so that you are covering a new area with each stroke. Use the degree of tip scale on pages 46-47 in Notes from the Grooming Table to determine the angle of the blade that will cut the optimal amount of hair with each pass. (Focus is to remove the bulk of hair.)
- **2nd pass goal:** Back brush the coat and repeat the above process. (Focus is to smooth the finish work.)
- **3rd pass goal:** Back brush the coat and look only for high spots or uneven areas. (Focus is on to smooth the areas that are uneven or long than the desired blade length.)

### Scissoring:

- **1st pass goal:** Set in your legs with your clipper first blending the leg into the body and removing the bulk of the hair and round up the feet. (Focus is to remove the bulk of hair and round up the feet.)
- **2nd pass goal:** Comb up the hair so that it is standing up and out from the body. Work on the legs in sections focusing on one area at a time; rear, outside, inside, front. See pages 39-41 Theory of Five for further reference. Scissor the hair to shape the leg properly and remove high spots. (Focus is to shape the leg and remove any high spots.)
- **3rd pass goal:** Comb up the hair and lightly scissor just the tips of coat to give the leg an even smooth velvet finish. If it is a drop coated breed, comb down the hair and lightly smooth the high spots with thinning shears. (Focus is to give the coat a smooth, finish that shows angulations and balance.)