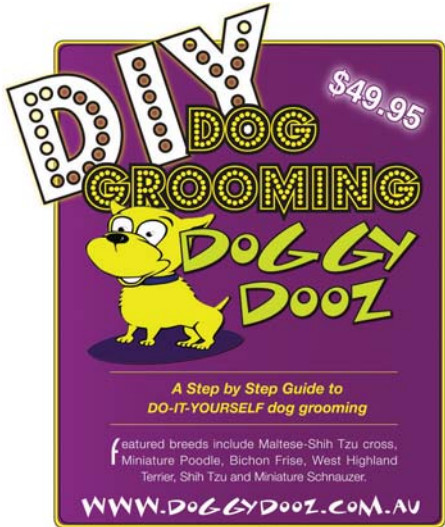


# Clean up in aisle four!



## Too much of a good thing can be bad

Most of us don't like that 'doggy smell', yet it's something we should just get used to. That not-so-fragrant odour comes from the normal production of oils on the skin. How frequently you wash your dog depends on breed the sort of activities they undertake. Dogs that participate in lots of outdoor activity are typically exposed to more dirt and debris so probably require more bathing than inactive, indoor ones.

It may surprise many readers to learn most dogs are self-cleaning and don't require frequent washing. A healthy dog's coat is designed to repel dirt. Any grime or debris that is on the skin travels its way to the hair shaft and then 'flicked' off the end of the hair.

Over-washing can lead to skin conditions by stripping the coat's essential, healthy oils. Natural oils are crucial for healthy skin and coat as they moisturise skin, keep coats shiny and repel water and cold.

Only use specially formulated pet shampoo—never use products for use on humans. Quality pet shampoos are pH balanced, should be low in fragrance and gentle to skin without stripping vital oils. If your pet has sensitive skin, you should consider using high quality oatmeal based shampoos available through veterinary clinics, professional groomers and top pet stores.



Wonder why your dog rolls in something nasty after a bath? The answer could be the fragrance in the shampoo. Dogs have sensitive noses and would rather smell like Kennel No5 than your expensive designer fragrance.

## Woof, wash & wax

Handy pet wipes are widely available for 'in-between' washdays. They're light on fragrance and lift surface dirt. Microfibre 'dry' towels are also handy for home and car as they attract dirt from mucky mutts ensuring that paw prints and debris doesn't end up on your upholstery.

Brushing and grooming will also keep your pet's coat in tip-top condition. Brushing regularly shifts dirt and debris and loosens dead hair. A detangler sprayed during regular brushing will keep longer coats tangle free. Shorter coats will also reap the benefit of a regular groom by exposing softer and shinier fur.



Pet wipes for in-between washes or after a trip to the beach

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## Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative

Nobody wants to live with nasty pet smells and there are plenty of products on supermarket shelves, like air fresheners, that claim they'll make your house smell like a bouquet of roses. However, unless you use a product that breaks down or absorbs odour causing bacteria, then all your doing is a cover-up. Some newer products are formulated to eliminate strong urine smells—we're not going to mention the name, but the loud yellow bottle says it all.

Another solution to hard-to-clean porous surfaces like concrete and backyard tiles are products used by zoos and veterinary clinics. These are ideal to destroy the odour and sanitise the surface.

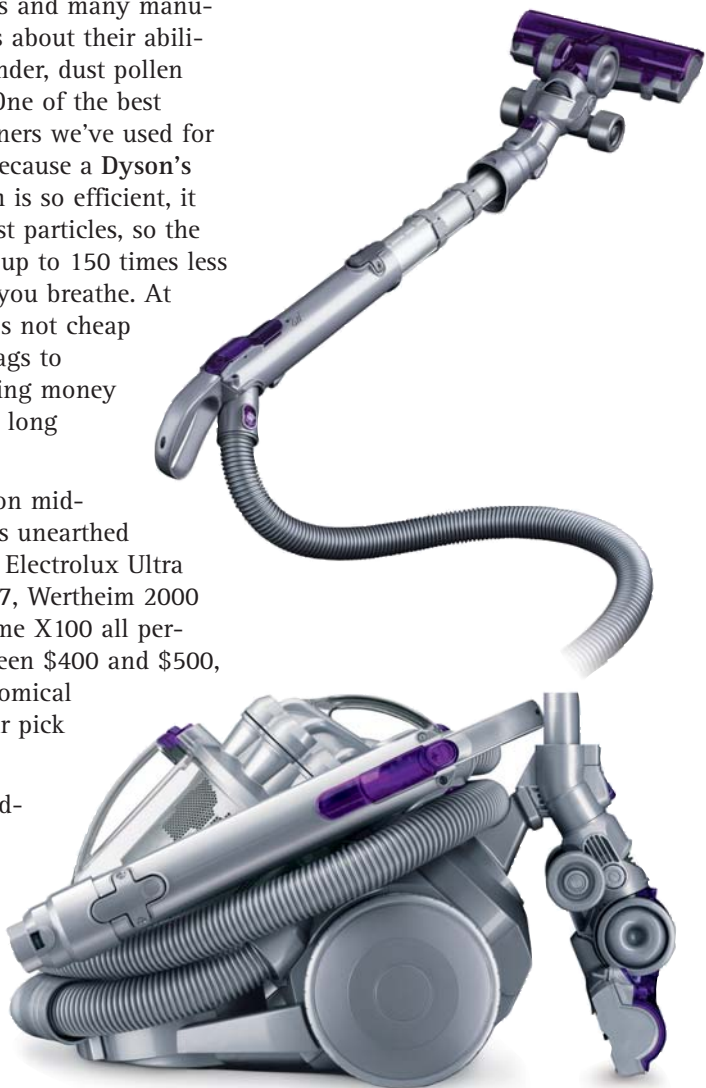
## Don't be a sucker for the wrong vacuum cleaner

Choice, Australia's independent consumer organisation, awarded the iROBOT ROOMBA robot vacuum cleaner the 2006 Shonky Award for 'Best Dirt Distribution'. Their testing found that this robotic vacuum cleaner was "almost useless on carpet" and was "extremely slow and noisy on hard floors". "Once the small dirt container fills up, every-time the iRobot bumps into a hard object—like a chair, wall or other obstacle, a little pile of collected dirt falls out". Priced around \$400.00 this sounds like an expensive toy to keep your OCD dog amused.

Pet hair pick up can be a real test for most vacuum cleaners and many manufacturers make claims about their abilities in sucking up dander, dust pollen and other allergens. One of the best top-end vacuum cleaners we've used for years is the Dyson. Because a Dyson's Radix Cyclone system is so efficient, it retains even the tiniest particles, so the air expelled contains up to 150 times less bacteria than the air you breathe. At just under \$900.00 it's not cheap but as there are no bags to replace, you'll be saving money and air quality in the long term.

Choice's recent tests on mid-price vacuum cleaners unearthed that the Miele S5210, Electrolux Ultra Silencer Deluxe Z3357, Wertheim 2000 and the Nilfisk Extreme X100 all performed well. At between \$400 and \$500, they are a more economical investment in pet-hair pick up.

With all cleaning products, shampoos and rinses, always follow the manufacturers instructions and as an added precaution make sure there is adequate ventilation.



### For stockists:

Thurlby Herb Farm Barker Family Woof Wash Bar and Mitt ph: (08) 9840 1249  
 Oohlala coat enhancing shampoo & conditioner ph: (07) 3868 0333  
 Oakwood Pet Products ph: 1800 228 622  
 Pet wipes and range of pet shampoos from Mavlab ph: (07) 3808 1399  
 Non-allergenic Oatcoat for sensitive skins ph: 9604 6266  
 Air-Tech pet odour eliminators by Glason Specialised Services ph: 4323 7792

All photography, except Dyson and oohlala, by Animax



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refresh 125 mL

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With the new yummy scented SQUIRT products, bath time will be fun!

The Squirt range of stuff comes in sweet smelling flavours like Pina Colada, Kahlua and Coconut - you'll love them as much as your dog!



**WARNING: Do not bath while drinking cocktails!!**

# squirt

fun stuff for dogs

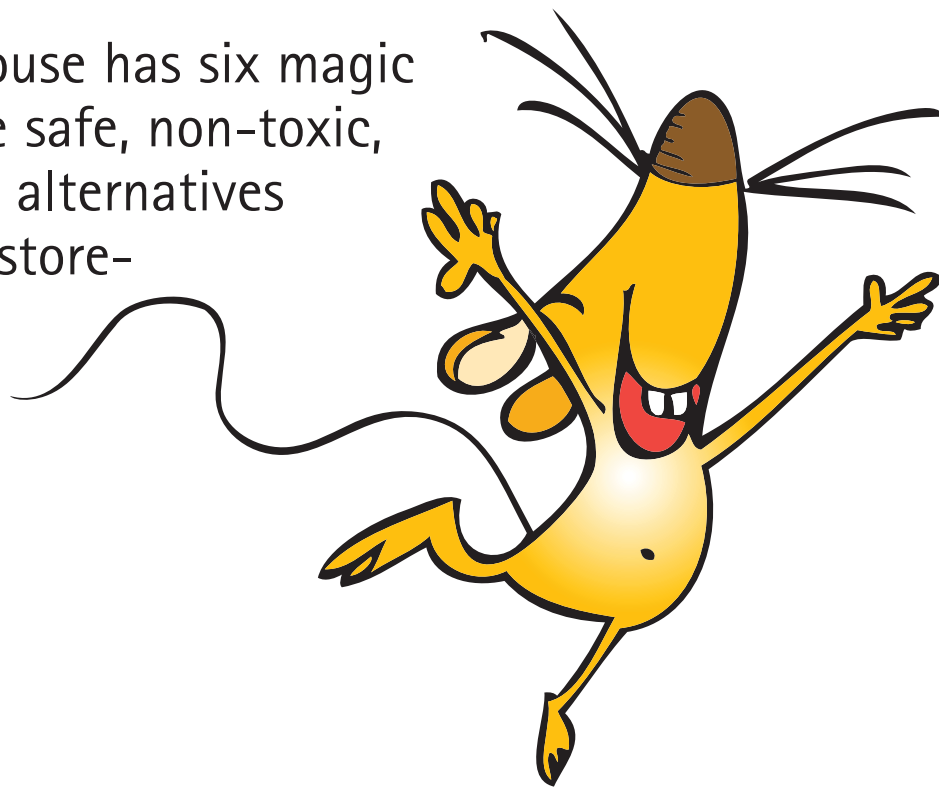
The range has a mild formula (for the sensitive dogs) as well as a shampoo specially formulated for young puppies. Also in the range are 2 care products: Leave-in Detangler and Spray & Shine, ensuring their coats always in optimum condition.

Available from selected pet stores and vets.

Squirt PH: 02 9679 5750 Email: info@vetcompanies.com.au

Mildred the house mouse has six magic ingredients that make safe, non-toxic, economical & natural alternatives to a cupboard full of store-bought products.

- salt
- white vinegar
- baking soda
- washing soda
- borax
- elbow grease



### Basic Disinfectant

Mix 1/2 cup borax (a natural mineral that kills mold and bacteria) with 3.5 litres hot water. Add a few sprigs of fresh thyme. Steep for 10 minutes, strain and cool. Store in a recycled plastic spray bottle.

### Floor cleaner

Mix 1 cup white vinegar with 7-8 liters hot water. For greasy floors, add 1/4 cup washing soda and 1 tablespoon vegetable-oil-based soap to the above mixture.

### Window-washing fluid

Mix 1 cup vinegar with 4 cups hot water.

### Wood furniture cleaner

To remove water stains on wood furniture, dab white toothpaste onto the stain. Allow the paste to dry and then gently buff off with a soft cloth.

### Removing mildew

To remove mildew from bathtubs, bathroom curtains and tiles, make a mixture of:

- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup of Borax cleaning detergent
- 2 cups of water

Pour it on the dirty areas and let it sit for a few minutes, and then scrub with a cloth. If mildew is still visible you may need 2 applications



Shampoos & conditioners that enhance coats



Anti tangle spray from Oakwood. Grooming glove is ideal for people who have trouble gripping conventional brushes

## Looking for a quality alternative to pamper your pet?

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- a soap free shampoo
- a range that offers your pet soothing skin agents like Oat Extract
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- a range that offers you value for money

### Oatcoat Natural

A specially formulated, low-allergenic, soap free shampoo designed to leave your pet's coat looking & smelling clean & fresh.

Oatcoat contains no artificial colours or scents - instead utilising a natural blend of oat & eucalyptus extracts to create a soothing shampoo that is gentle enough to be used as often as you wish.

Oatcoat is ideally suited for safe use with Spot-On Flea treatments.



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