

Tried & tested

Grooming products under scrutiny

Kote-Glo shampoo

Description: Kote-Glo No Rinse Dog & Puppy Shampoo and its Touch Up version with a spray nozzle for cleaning up spot staining. No water needed. Simply apply the shampoo all over, or target soiled areas, massage into a lather and then towel dry. It lifts the dirt up and away from the skin and coat, which is then towelled off.

Price: £8.15 for the shampoo and £8.38 for the Touch Up version, both 16fl oz. Both plus postage, taking the cost of ordering both products to over £21.

Where to buy: Mail order from Nineteen to the Dozen at www.norinse.co.uk or tel. 0844 209 0888.

Tester: Editor Caroline Davis

Verdict: Says Caroline: "This is a brilliant product. It is easy to use – no water needed – and cleans the coat quickly when you are short of time but your pup badly needs a bath or a clean after a muddy walk, or just to freshen him up and make him smell better on a regular basis. Ideal for those with bigger dogs who find normal bathing difficult and time-consuming and for freshening up on doggy holidays. However, I thought it a bit expensive, since you need a lot of it to clean up a big dog like mine. The cost of postage really does hike up prices as well. It's cheaper than the groomer's though."

8
out of
10

Mutneys

Description: Mutneys Pure & Sensual Aromatherapy Shampoo (250ml) and Pure & Sensual Finishing Spray (50ml).

Price: £5.50 each, plus postage if mail order (£3.20 and £2 respectively).

Where to buy: Contact Mutneys for your local stockist, or mail order on tel. 0845 468 6467 or visit www.mutneys.com

Tester: Editor Caroline Davis

Verdict: Says Caroline: "Mutneys produces simply lovely smelly products for pooches. It was a pleasure to test out this 'fancy' stuff – and Wolfie, my GSD, enjoyed his Pure & Sensual aromatherapy experience too. The shampoo dilutes 1 in 5 in water before use and satisfyingly lathers up well, leaving the coat shiny and clean after thoroughly rinsing. The finishing spray, which is available in various fragrances, as is the shampoo, to suit any dog, adds that final perfumed touch to your freshly bathed dog. Bit pricy (due to postage costs), but worth it since a little goes a long way. A touch of class in the canine cleansing department."



10
out of
10



Shampoo bar

Description: 100 per cent natural dog shampoo bar with calming lavender and apricot and moisturising apricot, combined with pure oils.

Price: £4 (plus £1.99 p&p)

Where to buy: Little Soap Company: www.littlesoapcompany.co.uk; tel. 01386 831379.

Tester: Sub-editor Jenny Chafer

Verdict: Says Jenny: "This soap bar is fab! It leaves my Jack Russell Terrier cross, Lucky, incredibly clean (not an easy feat) and gives him a beautifully soft and glossy coat. It smells great too and eliminates any nasty odours. It is easy to use: you simply rub the soap over your dog's coat and it creates a nice lather; it is also easy to rinse off. Plus, it is soft and gentle on my hands, which is an added bonus. Priced at only £4, I think this product is very reasonable. I have bathed Lucky over 10 times and there's still plenty left. It gets a double thumbs-up from me!"



10
out of
10

FURminator

Description: The FURminator deLuxe Shedding Tool is made from stainless steel that works by removing the loose undercoat. It has a FURejector button making the edge easy to clean. It also has a sleek, ergonomic handle which provides a comfortable grip. It is designed not to damage the top coat and is said to reduce airborne allergens.

Price: From £25.82

Where to buy: Available from pet stores across the UK. For more information visit www.furminator.com

Tester: Editor Caroline Davis

Verdict: Says Caroline: "Correctly used, this is a fantastic grooming tool that is must-have kit for anyone with a dog that sheds a lot, like my German Shepherd Dog (GSD). It's an absolute boon when the moult starts and enables me – combined with a more natural diet for my dog and lower radiator settings in winter – to keep the amount of hair shed around the house to a minimum. Top marks from me!"



10
out of
10

Nail clippers

Description: These Soft Protection Salon Small Nail Clippers have a precision cutting blade and are said to be easy to control for accurate clipping.

Price: Small: £4.99, large £5.99

Where to buy: Contact Rosewood Pet for details of local stockists. Visit www.rosewoodpet.com or tel. 01952 883408.

Tester: Sub-editor Jenny Chafer

Verdict: Says Jenny: "I'd never considered trimming a dog's nails before, but as Lucky has light-coloured nails and you can see his quick, I thought I'd give them a go. There is a precision cutting blade which helps you line up exactly where you want to trim the nail and the clippers are easy to use. They are cheap to buy and will save you money at the vets. Have an expert show you how to use nail clippers before trying it."

9
out of
10



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