




Combating doggie odour



Grooming resources

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While some odour is natural, a dog that emits a foul smell may require some intervention.

We all love cuddling with our canines. But sometimes up close and personal can be downright stinky. While some odour is natural, a dog that emits a foul smell requires further investigation. But first, you need to find the source of the problem.

Common sources of doggie B.O.—and how to treat them

Excessively oily skin—Some breeds (especially from the hound group) are prone to excessively oily skin. These oils can accumulate on the skin and become rancid. A bath can help—ask your veterinarian to recommend a good shampoo. Just don't wash too frequently, as oil glands may produce even more oil as a result of overly frequent bathing.

Bacterial or yeast infections—Bacterial skin infections often cause red bumps and rancid odour. Some dogs also develop excessive shedding, patchy hair loss, and scaling.

Signs of a yeast infection include a rash, an oily coat, and persistent scratching. The skin

may form a scaly, elephant-like appearance, and produce a strong odour. Be sure to consult your veterinarian regarding the type of shampoo you should use. Other types of treatment, in addition to medicated shampoos, are often needed for these infections.

A roll in a smelly substance—Some dogs just can't resist rolling around in stinky things, like animal droppings. To help clear the air, bathe your pooch and use some doggie shampoo.

Tips for fighting other sources of dog odour

Keep the ears clean—Ear infections can have a pungent odour and are relatively common in floppy-eared dogs. Weekly cleaning will help prevent infections. Ask your vet to show you how to safely clean your dog's ears.

Brush your dog more often—Regular brushing, especially of the undercoat, will help remove odour-causing material from the hair, and the oils that can lead to odour.

Learn about your dog's anal glands—These glands are often a cause of odour. Your veterinarian can show you how to check, and sometimes empty, the anal sacs to prevent problems with odour.

See your vet if your dog's breath is unusually foul—This condition could be the result of periodontal disease or other medical condition. Always consult your veterinarian if your dog is emitting an odd odour. A simple treatment may be all it takes to help you breathe easier.

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