# What to ask a groomer before booking an appointment for your dog

Choosing a groomer for your dog is an important decision. A good groom does more than make a coat look tidy; it keeps the skin healthy, prevents matting, and helps you spot early signs of irritation or illness. But not every grooming service suits every dog. Some work at speed, others take their time. Some use strong chemical shampoos, others prefer milder formulas. Before you hand your dog over, it pays to ask a few direct questions. Here are the points worth checking.

## How does the groomer assess each dog before starting?

A responsible groomer does not simply pick up clippers and begin. They carry out a grooming consultation first. This means they look at the dog's coat condition, skin, nails, ears, and general demeanour. They should ask you about any health issues, sensitivities, or past bad experiences. If a groomer skips this step and goes straight to work, that is a warning sign. A thorough coat assessment tells the groomer what tools and products to use, and whether the dog needs extra care or a slower pace. It also gives you a chance to mention any areas where your dog dislikes being handled.

## What products are used on the coat and skin?

The shampoo, conditioner, and any finishing sprays that touch your dog's skin matter a great deal. Harsh detergents strip natural oils and can cause itching, flaking, or allergic reactions. If your dog has sensitive skin or a known allergy, you need a groomer who uses gentle dog grooming products. Ask whether they use organic or hypoallergenic options, and whether they check for product reactions before applying anything new. A good groomer will be happy to name the brands they carry and explain why they chose them. If they seem vague or defensive, that is worth noting.




## How does the groomer handle nervous or anxious dogs?

Dogs pick up on tension and unfamiliar surroundings very quickly. A groomer's handling techniques can make the difference between a calm visit and a stressful one. Ask what they do if a dog becomes frightened, fidgety, or tries to pull away. Do they use restraints? Do they take breaks? Do they have a quiet space for dogs that need to settle? A groomer who understands canine body language will adjust their approach rather than forcing the dog through the process. This is especially important for puppies, senior dogs, or rescue animals with unknown histories. Good handling does not mean rushing; it means working at the dog's pace while still getting the job done.

## What does the appointment schedule look like?

Some groomers book several dogs at once and move between them. Others take one dog at a time and give it their full attention. Neither approach is wrong, but you should know which you are paying for. A busy schedule may mean shorter sessions or less individual care. If your dog needs extra time, ask whether the groomer can accommodate that without rushing the next client. Also ask how long a typical session lasts for a dog of your breed and coat type. That way you know what to expect and can plan accordingly. A groomer who is transparent about their timetable usually runs a well-organised business.

## Is the equipment and workspace cleaned between dogs?

Sanitation is a basic expectation, but standards vary. Grooming tools - clippers, blades, brushes, towels - can transfer fungi, bacteria, and parasites if they are not properly cleaned between uses. Ask how the groomer disinfects their equipment and how often they wash their towels and grooming table covers. A clean workspace also means the air is not thick with loose hair and dust. If the environment looks or smells unclean, that is a red flag. A professional groomer will be proud to show you their hygiene routine.

One business that places a strong emphasis on gentle handling and product choice is WagTails of The Wolds - Dog Grooming - Driffield, Yorkshire. They focus on luxury grooming with organic products and a personalised approach, which often means they take the time to understand each dog's needs before they begin. For owners who prioritise a calm, low-stress experience, that kind of attention to detail is exactly what to look for.




## What happens if my dog has a skin issue or a minor injury?

A groomer sees parts of your dog that you might not notice at home. During a welfare check, they should look for lumps, cuts, rashes, ear infections, or signs of parasites. If they find something, what do they do? Some will stop and ask for your permission before continuing. Others may clean the area gently and recommend a vet visit. A few may try to treat the issue themselves, which is risky. Ask the groomer how they handle unexpected findings. You want someone who is cautious and communicates clearly, not someone who pushes ahead regardless.

## Do they follow breed-specific grooming guidelines?

Different breeds have different coat types, skin sensitivities, and grooming requirements. A double-coated breed like a Husky needs different handling than a single-coated breed like a Poodle. Breed standards exist for good reason: the wrong clipper blade or cutting technique can damage the coat's texture and ability to regulate temperature. Ask the groomer whether they adjust their methods based on breed and coat type. A good groomer will know the difference between a deshedding trim and a full clip, and will explain why they recommend one over the other for your dog.

## Can you stay and watch, or do you have to leave?

Some grooming salons prefer owners to drop off and return later. Others allow you to stay and observe. Neither is better by itself, but your dog's comfort matters. Some dogs behave better when their owner is not in sight; others become anxious if left with a stranger. Ask what the policy is, and if you are not allowed to stay, ask how you will be updated on your dog's progress. A good groomer will be happy to explain their reasoning and will respect your preference where possible.

For owners who value a tailored, low-stress service, **WagTails of The Wolds - Dog Grooming - Driffield, Yorkshire** offers a luxury grooming experience that prioritises gentle techniques and organic products. Their focus on personalised treatments means they are likely to spend time getting to know each dog before any work begins. That kind of approach gives peace of mind, especially for first-time clients.




Asking these questions before you book helps you find a groomer who matches your dog's needs and your own expectations. A good groomer will welcome the questions and answer them clearly. If they seem put out by a simple inquiry about products or handling, that is useful information in itself. Your dog cannot tell you how the experience felt, so it is up to you to choose wisely. A little preparation goes a long way toward a positive grooming visit.