

Pooch Paramedic



A 9-1-1 Reference For Anyone Who Grooms

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The
Pooch
Parlor



Specialty Baths:

Peroxide/Baking Soda Odor control baths:

1. Skunked Dogs
2. Carcass and/or manure-rolling dogs:



Why, Oh Why Do Dogs Roll in Stench? Deodorant or Perfume?

INSTINCTS: Dogs try to cover their own scent by shoving and stock-piling the scent of the day - decomposed flesh, ripe or aged manure - wherever they can get it to stick on their own body. Just as humans dab perfume around the ears, dogs love to use these natural pockets to covet and preserve their find. Covering their own dog scent allows them to blend into the environment for camouflage and survival purposes. This behavior, though disgusting to humans, is purely instinctual, and is analogous to humans wearing deodorant to "fit in" with society.

Wearing deodorant for humans and absorbing foul environmental smells for canines serves the same purpose surviving and existing by adapting to social norms.



Determining if a Peroxide Odor Control Bath is Needed:

Three reasons constitute the use of a peroxide/baking soda bath:

1. If the bather's eyes water from the smell of the unwashed pet.
2. If the smell exceeds "normal standards of dog smell" (often the gag reflex is triggered for the bather).
3. Regular shampoo is not reducing the smell.

Finding the stench: identify (by sniffing) where the smell is concentrated on the dog:

For rolling dogs: typically the head, under, in, and around the ears, and in the folds of the neck.

For skunked dogs: typically the face or shoulders, but the skunk mist can settle on any part of the body, depending on how close the skunk was standing to the dog during spraying and if there was wind blowing during the spraying.

Water amplifies the smell. If the smell is hard to find, it will be much easier to locate when the dog is wet. Saturate the skin, starting under the ears.

Texture mix for faces:

Protect the dog's eyes with one to three drops of mineral oil or Neosporin BEFORE beginning the bathing process.

CAUTION WITH EYE PROTECTANT: NEVER PUT PROTECTIVE OIL IN A DOG'S EYES AFTER THE BATHING PROCESS HAS BEGUN, AS THE OIL CAN TRAP HARMFUL RESIDUE ON THE EYE SURFACE AND CAUSE IRRITATION, BURN, OR OTHER EYE INJURIES. Pictured right is Neosporin in Grt. Dane's eye.

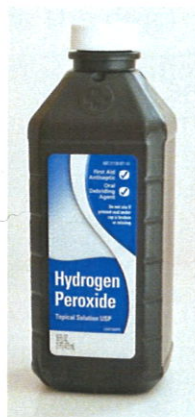


The oil coating will not harm the eyes, and will keep the liquids from irritating the eyes. If most the odor concentration is on the face:

1. Make a thick paste with hydrogen peroxide (1/2 to 1 cup), baking soda (2-3 cups) and a few drops of Dawn dish soap. Make the mixture just before applying. Do not premix the odor solution, as the neutralizing ability of the mixture is most effective in the first 10 minutes after mixing. For the face, the consistency of the paste should be about the thickness of peanut butter. The mixture should be liquid enough to saturate the hair down *to the skin* but not so thin that it trickles into the dog's eyes.
2. Saturate the dogs face with warm water. Be sure the skin is completely wet.

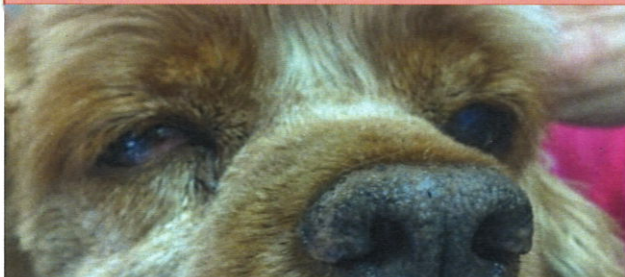
Texture mix for faces (cont.):

3. Apply the thick moisture to the face, pressing the soda/peroxide mixture into the skin. Allow the mixture to soak for 3 minutes.
4. Sniff the dogs's face. If there is no further odor detected, all the odor is neutralized and can be rinsed. If there is still an odor, rinse and repeat these steps.
5. Soak the face for up to 3 paste cycles for maximum effectiveness.



Caution: Symptoms with dog's eyes: Watch for eye irritation which typically shows up as non-symmetrical blinking. Rinse with fresh water (using a soft spray) just above the eyes for 10 seconds. Stop and watch the eyes until blinking stops, both eyes are open, and there are no signs of squinting.

If non-symmetrical blinking continues, repeat the rinsing process for up to 6 more cycles, checking eyes after 5-10 seconds of rinsing. If the dog continues to squint after 10 minutes of rinsing, refer to: Eyes: Soap burn, for more information on treatment.



SPECIALTY BATHS - CONTINUED



Mixture for bodies: (Mixture should be made exactly at time of use):

- Hydrogen peroxide, one whole 32oz. bottle
- Baking Soda, one whole box, 1 lb.
- Dawn Dish Soap, 4 drops.

Mix the hydrogen peroxide, baking soda and dish soap in an open container. Funnel into an empty dish soap bottle, to be used to apply the paste to the dog.

Application information: How long to let the mixture soak? Let the mixture set for up to 3 minutes for each application. This solution, if mixed just prior to use, should neutralize the odor within 30 seconds of contact. Most importantly, the fur and skin of the dog must be completely saturated, first with water, and then with the baking soda solution. Be sure to press the solution through the fur and into the skin, especially on the face, for effectiveness.

Caution: Rinse dog's eyes immediately if solution leaks into the eyes. Make a thicker paste (not runny) if the surrounding eye area needs additional treatments.

How many applications are needed? Up to three applications are helpful to neutralize odor. The older the smell (days or months), the fewer applications are needed.

Useful odor Information:

Odor burns the eyes and nose: If the smell is so pungent the groomer can feel the burning odor in his/her eyes, tongue, or nose before or while the dog is wet, multiple bath applications will be likely.

Odor is less than 24 hours old: Keep rewashing using this mixture up to three times, until the smell cannot be felt in the groomer's eyes, mouth, or nose. If the odor can still be detected, but cannot be physically felt in the eyes and nose (while the dog is wet), typically, the smell is very tolerable once the dog is dry. Water amplifies the smell often by 20 times. If the bath occurs 24 hours after the occurrence, it is realistic to expect to get 90% of the smell removed.

Odor is less than 4 hours old: 100% of the smell can be removed from *the skin and fur*, with up to 3 bath applications.

Odor is less than 8 hours old: up to 95% of the odor can be removed.

Odor is 3 to 4 days old: 85% of the odor can be removed.

Odor is older than a week: Giving more than one soda/peroxide bath after the odor has set up for a week or more is NOT effective. One bath application can remove 50 to 85% of the odor, however.

Still an odor after the fur is neutralized? Check the breath, eyes, and inside the ears of the dog. 50% of all skunked dogs inhale direct or indirect skunk mist. If the dog has inhaled skunk spray, nothing can be done to fix this problem except time. And lots of time!

Skunk smell in eyes and in lungs: It is normal for dogs to have green jellylike discharge from their eyes and nose if they have been skunk sprayed directly on the face. This green discharge can last 3 to 10 days. It is also very common for the dog to inhale directly or indirectly the skunk spray. The dog's breath will be skunk smelling for 10 days to 6 months, depending on the concentration!

Risk Information:

Risk of slight color change to the dog's fur: Most dogs will not have any adverse effects to the soda/peroxide solution. Dark-colored dogs with thin, fine hair are the most susceptible to having a slight lightening to the hair color. The best way to limit the probability or amount of color change on the dog is to reduce the application set time to one minute for each application.

Protect your own skin and wear old clothes. This baking soda solution can be irritating to some people. It can also discolor (temporarily) human skin and lighten spots in clothes. Groomers who cannot tolerate the solution on their skin, may want to slather the hands and arms with cocoa butter lotion and wear long plastic gloves over their hands. This will protect the groomer from unpleasant symptoms, such as tingling, itching, and temporary skin discoloration.

Complete all Specialty Baths with a regular dog shampoo bath: The baking soda paste is VERY messy! And impossible to see when the dog is wet. Vigorous scrubbing and lathering are required to remove all the residue of the baking soda and peroxide. Without a secondary lathered dog bath to rinse out the baking soda, the coat results will be loaded with crusty baking soda that turns white when the coat is dry.

