**Brushing your dog**

Most dogs need to be brushed whether they have short fur or long fur. It is therefore important to begin to brush your dog from an early age. However, some dogs develop a fear of the hair brush making it very stressful for the dog and owner.

It is important that we turn this negative experience into a positive experience. While you are sitting fussing and stroking your dog introduced the hair brush.

 When your dog moves forward to smell the brush offer a treat then remove the brush. Repeat this several times. It won’t take long for your dog to associate the hair brush with food. Make sure you use a soft brush to begin with. Using the back of the brush start to move it over your dog’s body and each time he/she tolerates it offer a treat. If he/she attacks the brush say ‘NO’. Do not reward this behaviour; only reward the behaviour that you want. In this case the dog tolerating the hair brush.

It will take time, you need to stay calm and repeat it every day. All dogs are different and learn at different rates. Be patient and take your time and your dog will grasp it in the end.

When your dog tolerates the back of the brush being placed on his/her body, you can then start to gently run the brush through the fur. Again offer food as a reward. When he/she tolerates the soft brush you can then move to a slicker brush if the coat needs it.

It is important to create a positive relaxed experience for you and your dog. If we work together it won’t be long before your dog is happy to be brushed.

Be consistent and don’t give up and make sure all the family are involved and all do the same thing. Your efforts will succeed and the result is very satisfying.

THANK-YOU for your time and effort!!