

ANIMAL SKIN EAR AND ALLERGY CLINIC

DILUTE BLEACH BATH INSTRUCTIONS

If your pet is dirty, has a greasy or oily coat, or has crusts that need to be washed off, bathe first in Dawn dish detergent to remove material. Rinse well.

Next, measure water into a Rubbermaid tub, sink or bathtub. If using a Rubbermaid tub, it should be placed inside a regular tub to help hold its shape when filled with water. If possible, put enough water into the tub or sink to come halfway up the body of your pet.

Add 1 cup bleach per 10 gallons of water. If you have been directed to use the dilute bleach as a spray, mix 2 tablespoons bleach per quart of water. If using as a spray, mix fresh daily. Be careful, as some fabrics and materials may still be bleached at this dilution

Put your pet into the tub or sink and soak for 10 minutes. Use a cup or other container to continuously bring water up over your pet's body ensuring complete soaking of the skin and fur. If you need to use the dilute bleach near the face (e.g. ears or top of head), put lubricant in your pet's eyes and avoid getting into the pet's eyes. You may use a sponge to soak the fur and skin in these areas.

After 10 minutes, remove your pet from the tub and put in a kennel or enclosed room with a couple towels to sit on (e.g. bathroom, laundry room). **DO NOT RINSE. DO NOT TOWEL DRY.** Let your pet air dry or use a hair dryer to speed drying. It is important that the dilute bleach solution dry on the skin and remain there. Do not use anything that will wipe the solution off your pet.

Dilute bleach baths are used in human medicine as well as veterinary medicine to provide rapid kill of surface bacteria on the skin. It is also soothing to sores and decreases itching. The most common uses are for resistant bacterial infections and atopic eczema in humans as well as pets. If done properly and frequently enough, oral antibiotics may be avoided in some cases as well as the avoidance of development of antibiotic resistant bacterial infections. Your dermatologist will recommend the frequency that is best for your pet.