



BEAGLE CARE CHECKLIST

Everything you need to keep your Beagle happy, healthy & looking great

About This Checklist

Beagles are curious, affectionate, and endlessly energetic — and keeping them at their best takes a little more than the occasional brush and bath. With their famously long ears, food-driven personalities, and nose-first approach to the world, Beagles have a handful of breed-specific care needs that every owner should know.

This checklist is designed as a practical, all-in-one reference to help you stay on top of your Beagle's grooming, health, exercise, training, and home safety — whether you're a first-time Beagle owner or a seasoned hound lover looking for a reliable routine to follow.

How to use it: Work through each section at the frequency noted beside each item. Print it out and tick the boxes as you go, or keep a digital copy on your phone for quick reference during vet visits or grooming sessions. Items marked with a 🐾 **TIP** are Beagle-specific callouts — pay extra attention to those.

Note: This checklist is a general guide for healthy adult Beagles. Puppies, seniors, or dogs with medical conditions may require a modified routine — always consult your veterinarian for personalised advice.

✦ GROOMING

Coat Care

- Brush coat with a hound mitt or soft-bristle brush — *2–3× per week*
- Use a rubber grooming glove during shedding season — *spring & fall*
- Check for burrs, debris, or matting after outdoor walks
- Bathe with a dog-safe, mild shampoo — *every 4–6 weeks or when dirty*
- Rinse thoroughly — no shampoo residue left on skin
- Towel-dry and keep warm until fully dry
- Apply a conditioning spray if coat feels dry

🐾 **TIP:** Beagles have a double coat that repels dirt well. Overbathing strips natural oils — stick to the schedule unless they've rolled in something!

Ear Care (Critical for Beagles)

- Inspect ears weekly for redness, odor, or dark discharge
- Clean inner ear flap with a vet-approved ear cleaner — *every 1–2 weeks*
- Dry ears thoroughly after baths or swimming
- Never insert cotton swabs into the ear canal
- Schedule vet check if scratching or head-shaking persists

🐾 **TIP:** Beagles' long, floppy ears trap moisture and limit airflow — making them one of the breeds most prone to ear infections. Consistent ear checks are a must.

Nail & Paw Care

- Trim nails every 3–4 weeks (or when clicking on hard floors)
- Use sharp dog nail clippers or a grinder — avoid the quick
- Check paw pads for cracks, cuts, or foreign objects
- Apply paw balm in winter (salt/ice) or very hot weather
- Trim fur between paw pads to prevent matting and debris buildup

Eye & Facial Care

- Wipe any eye discharge gently with a damp cotton pad — *daily if needed*
- Check for redness, cloudiness, or excessive tearing
- Clean facial folds (if present) to prevent moisture buildup

Dental Care

- Brush teeth with dog-safe toothpaste — *daily or minimum 3× per week*
- Offer dental chews or toys to reduce plaque
- Schedule professional dental cleaning — *annually or per vet advice*
- Check for broken teeth, swollen gums, or bad breath

◆ HEALTH & VETERINARY CARE

Routine Vet Visits

- Annual wellness exam with full physical — *or semi-annual for seniors 7+*
- Keep vaccinations up to date — *core: DA2PP, rabies; discuss others with vet*
- Heartworm test & preventive medication — *year-round recommended*
- Flea, tick, and parasite prevention — *monthly topical or oral*
- Intestinal parasite screening — *fecal exam 1–2× per year*
- Bloodwork panel for seniors — *annually after age 7*

Spay / Neuter & Reproductive Health

- Discuss optimal spay/neuter timing with your vet
- Monitor intact females for signs of false pregnancy or pyometra

Weight & Nutrition

- Weigh monthly — healthy adult Beagle: 18–30 lbs depending on size
- Feed measured meals (avoid free-feeding) — *Beagles are notoriously food-driven*
- Use a puzzle feeder to slow eating and prevent bloat
- Limit treats to ≤10% of daily caloric intake
- Ensure fresh water is always available
- Transition food changes gradually over 7–10 days

🍖 **TIP:** Beagles are extremely food-motivated and prone to obesity. A healthy weight is the single most impactful factor in longevity — keep portions consistent.

Common Beagle Health Concerns to Watch

- Epilepsy — note any seizure activity and report to vet immediately
- Hypothyroidism — watch for weight gain, lethargy, coat changes
- Intervertebral disc disease (IVDD) — monitor for back pain or weakness
- Cherry eye or glaucoma — check eyes monthly for abnormalities
- Hip dysplasia — screen if limping or reluctance to run/jump

◆ EXERCISE & MENTAL STIMULATION

- Provide at least 45–60 minutes of vigorous exercise daily
- Use a securely fenced area or leash — Beagles WILL follow their nose
- Rotate walking routes to offer new scent enrichment
- Include off-leash sniff sessions in safe, enclosed spaces
- Offer puzzle toys or Kongs filled with food for mental stimulation
- Practice nose work or scent games — *Beagles excel and love it*
- Provide interactive play — *fetch, tug, chase*
- Limit strenuous activity in puppies under 12 months

◆ TRAINING & BEHAVIOR

- Socialize early with people, children, dogs, and environments
- Use positive reinforcement — Beagles respond best to food rewards
- Work on recall training consistently (critical for this breed)
- Address excessive barking or howling with structured training
- Provide chew-safe toys to curb destructive chewing
- Crate train for safe confinement and anxiety reduction
- Keep training sessions short — *10–15 min max; Beagles can lose focus*

◆ HOME ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY

- Inspect yard fencing — Beagles are skilled escape artists
- Ensure ID tag and microchip details are current
- Keep trash cans secure (Beagles are gifted counter-surfers)
- Store medications, cleaning products, and toxic plants out of reach
- Provide a comfortable, draft-free sleeping area
- Check collar fit monthly — *two-finger rule between collar and neck*

🐾 **TIP:** Always ensure your Beagle's microchip is registered and your contact details are up to date — a scent trail can take them surprisingly far, surprisingly fast.

this checklist is a general guide. Always consult your veterinarian for advice tailored to your individual Beagle.
companion to the [Beagle Grooming Guide](#) • [printable & downloadable](#)