



LET'S TALK ABOUT

BRAMBLE'S BATHTIME

AN APH CARE GUIDE

By Happy Quills

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BRAMBLE'S BATHTIME

It is a common misperception that is hogs can't swim, we actually swim quite well doing the hoggy- paddle, however in the wild we struggle to climb out the water with our little legs, so can drown due to sheer exhaustion, not our swimming technique. That been said, most of us LOATHE bath time. I don't know why you humans insist on cleaning up our poo boots and boy badges that we have worked so hard for.

We should not be bathed too often as this dries out our skin, bath time is recommended once a month. If you have a dirty hog then foot baths should be used in between bath times. A bath for us should be prepared with care. Water needs to be warm, but not too hot (think baby bath temperature). The water should ideally just go up to our spine level. A lot of us freak out as our feet cannot gain traction in the bath, if you put a bit of fleece or a flannel under our feet it stops us slipping about, so we do not panic as much.

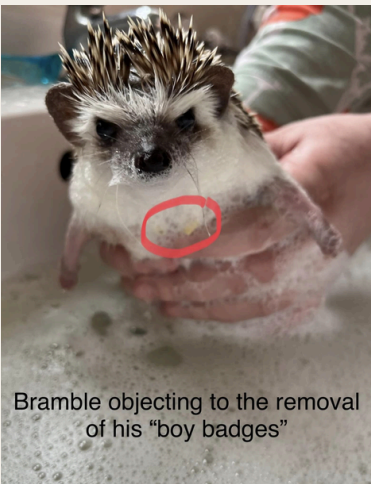
For new owners it is recommended to bath us on a washing up bowl or similar on the floor. Us hogs get very slippy and squirmy in the bath and try to escape. You do not want your hog suddenly jumping over the sink to plummet to the ground For hogs with dry skin or who are quilling a nice colloidal oat bath is very soothing for us. You can make your own using colloidal oats, just dissolve in warm water so the water goes a nice milky colour. Please note these oats are not porridge oats, we do not want turned into breakfast



If you are not using oats, then use Aveeno oat bath (see pics), make sure it does not have aloe or other ingredients added.

To clean us you can just use a basic toothbrush. Although my Mummy has just started using pet cleaning brushes. She says they are nice and soft, cover a bigger area and gently clean between my quills. Once we are in the bath of doom, gently scoop up some of the water and pour over our spines, then get to work giving us a good scrubbing. Keep supporting us with your hands, it makes us feel more secure. You will find even the grumpiest hog becomes your best friend in the bath as you are their saviour. Boy badges can be tricky to get out of fur, they go from being hard and crusty to sticky gloop, you may need to clean the area of fur a few times, Mummy gently uses her nails to tease out the gloop. Make sure you use that brush to clean my nails in readiness for snippy snippy time. Once I am looking squeaky clean you will need to rinse me in clean water to remove any sud residue.

It is important to dry me thoroughly so that I do not catch a chill. It takes a long time to get completely dry between our quills. Please ensure we are dry and warm before returning us to our enclosure.



Bramble objecting to the removal of his "boy badges"

