

## Shmanners 395: Dog Grooming

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[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And you're listening to *Shmanners*.

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette.

**Travis:** For ordinary occasions. Hello my dove.

**Teresa:** Hello dear.

**Travis:** How are you?

**Teresa:** [sighs] Fine. [sighs]

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah yeah.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah yeah. This weather needs to settle on one thing or the other.

**Teresa:** I know, right?

**Travis:** It needs to be cold or it needs to be warm, or it needs to be inbe— Ah.

**Teresa:** Ah.

**Travis:** Now wait. Hold on.

**Teresa:** It's the constant weather rollercoaster that gets me.

**Travis:** I would also appreciate it is whatever maintenance crew takes take of my body.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Would... stop slackin' off.

**Teresa:** Do a better job?

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah. Why does my neck hurt? I don't know. [laughs] It just does. Gettin' old is a treat and a treasure, and fun and a pleasure. So... If I'm not mistaken, this week we're talking about something that I have a little bit of expertise in.

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** This was my first job. A whole two weeks I worked.

**Teresa:** Yeah, you didn't do very much though.

**Travis:** Excuse me.

**Teresa:** You refused. Refused to do much.

**Travis:** That is not true. This is a narrative— Did they call you?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Did my former bosses call you?

**Teresa:** No, you've told me that there was a certain aspect of dog grooming that you did not like to do, and you wouldn't do it.

**Travis:** No-one should like to do that. We'll talk about it in a moment.

**Teresa:** Well.

**Travis:** But I worked there for two weeks, I was 16. I was supposed to be there to bathe and dry the dogs, and there was a grooming slash like boarding place, so I was also supposed to like feed them and let them out, right?

And they kept asking me to do all these other things, including like lawn maintenance. And like cleaning the break room and stuff that I wasn't hired to do. And I was 16, and they fired me 'cause they didn't like my work ethic. And I would be very curious to learn what 16-year-old work ethic is through the roof.

But I digress. It was a terrible job and I'm glad I got fired. So.

**Teresa:** Well, there's your dog grooming story. My dog grooming story... I've never been a dog groomer.

**Travis:** No, I was gonna say—

**Teresa:** Your face. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Look at your face. No, but I remember when we spent some time in LA, I was excited to try and finally look for a dog groomer that would hand strip Buttercup. Because she is a terrier. She looks a lot like a border terrier, although we've never had her DNA sequenced, we don't know.

**Travis:** Mm, doesn't matter.

**Teresa:** Mm, but she does have that wiry hair, and I was like, "Oh, this is a great opportunity to get her hand stripped." And I found somebody who said that they would do it, they took one look at Buttercup and said, "Absolutely not. You'll end up with a hairless dog." [wheezes]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** [chuckles] Because yes, she does have wire hair, but she had been groomed— She had been trimmed so much that the hair gets kinda softer.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** I guess. And so if you hand-stripped her, they'll— they just lose all of their fluffiness, and apparently it's a very long process. So if you don't start the dogs early in life, they really don't tolerate it.

**Travis:** One last thing.

**Teresa:** It's kind of like plucking eyebrows.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** I guess.

**Travis:** One last thing, in the story of my getting a job at a dog groomer.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** I don't necessarily remember my parents stressing so much about me getting a job. But in whatever narrative I built of the situation, it led to me, at 16... dramatically entering into the room where my parents were and saying, oh god, and saying, "Fine! You've broken me like a stallion!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "I'll get a job!"

**Teresa:** [chuckles] 'Cause you—

**Travis:** I can't—

**Teresa:** You're not dramatic at all.

**Travis:** I can't stress enough, I don't remember my parents—

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** — ever, maybe ever saying, "You need to get a job."

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** Maybe they did, but in my mind, it was constant pressure, I guess.

**Teresa:** Hey, so let's talk about a brief history of beautifying dogs.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** It makes sense that we've been grooming dogs for a long time because dogs have been hanging out with us for thousands of years, right? Some historians believe that humans were keeping dog companions as early as 32,000 years ago.

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** That's a long time. Because humans started providing food and shelter and protection to wolves, and in return the wolves stuck around to help the humans with the hunt. In return for more food, right?

**Travis:** Well and just to kind of— I don't know, spoiler I guess, but... we didn't have to groom— We didn't have to cut wolves' hair.

**Teresa:** No, we didn't.

**Travis:** Because wolves have fur.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** They don't have hair. There's a difference, there's two ki— Some dogs have fur and some dogs have hair, and we'll talk about that later.

**Teresa:** Yes. You can brush a wolf if they'll tolerate it, but they don't need to be groomed. They do shed, obviously. They shed pretty much all at once.

**Travis:** Not all at— Not like poof! [chuckles]

**Teresa:** No, they call it "blowing coat" for a reason, it all kind of like falls off in clumps.

**Travis:** "Excuse me. Sneeze. Achoo!" Poof. And just all on the ground, like a dead pine tree.

**Teresa:** But the first dogs to get really like spa days, probably between 1500 and 1600.

**Travis:** Yeah, I bet in France. I bet they were doing it in France. They love that kinda stuff.

**Teresa:** They love that kinda stuff. But they weren't really groomed for aesthetics. It was much more practical because hunters found that some light grooming made their dogs better swimmers, which made it easier for them to retrieve birds after they've been shot, right. And then the dogs that were really good at this were called "curly coated retrievers."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** They were very popular hunting dogs, good swimmers, and had dense fur. That, you know, was kind of six in one, half a dozen in the other, right? If the fur got thoroughly soaked it could weigh them down, but also because it was so dense, it also at first would trap air bubbles, right.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** And help keep them afloat.

**Travis:** And, I mean, similar if you think about a terrier, right? Where a terrier, the— it grows longer and longer and longer, right? But a lot of terriers are one, close to the ground. And two, are bred to like, you know, hunt moles and voles and ground animals, right.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** So if you picture like a terrier stickin' their snout into a hole to try to get something and you haven't kept their like beards manageable, it's gonna get caked in mud and caked in dirt and everything, right. So you want a terrier that's gonna stay warm and stay clean and have all of the, you know, hair that it needs to live.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** But not so much that it's just constantly picking up brambles and sticks and mud and all that stuff.

**Teresa:** Mm. So in the 1620s, it was standard to shave the back half of your hunting dog, leaving only small bits of hair over joints to provide warmth. This is where we get the kind of like—

**Travis:** Poodle look.

**Teresa:** Poodle look, exactly. And even the upper half of the animal would they would keep it long and even tie it out of their eyes, like with a ribbon or whatever.

**Travis:** Well I mean and picture a skirt for a Scottish terrier, where it's like keep the back clear, keep the legs warm.

**Teresa:** Mm.

**Travis:** Right?

**Teresa:** And so not only did this make it easier for the dog to see, it made it easier for the hunter to see the dog, if they had like a kind of colorful ribbon on their head.

And so this kind of efficiency was the first start of grooming, but in the 1700s, we start to see the royal poodles being quaffed.

**Travis:** Yeeeah.

**Teresa:** And like you said, the French, right. They loved to quaff their dogs.

**Travis:** Like to quaff 'em. I mean, the word right there, very French. "Quaff"? "Quaff"?

**Teresa:** Quaff.

**Travis:** That's not a German word. You know what I mean? That's a French word.

**Teresa:** So nobles would parade their dogs with them around court. You know how in the '90s, early 2000s, it was kind of like a status symbol to have a purse dog.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** It's like that. It was exactly like that. They would like give them ornate like shaved or teased haircuts. And like, you know... It was an accessory.

**Travis:** I wouldn't necessarily limit a dog being a fashion accessory to any one time period. There is always going to be some form of fashion of that, you know what I mean?

**Teresa:** Well, no, I'm talking about like the famous poodles that—

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** Yeah, the poodle cuts that we're talking about.

**Travis:** You know, didn't people with purse dogs worry about the dog like eating their used tissues and like left over purse candies and stuff?

**Teresa:** Well, I don't know if people did that.

**Travis:** And in Paris Hilton's purse, didn't she have like used tissues—

**Teresa:** Probably not.

**Travis:** And old Werthers.

**Teresa:** Probably not.

**Travis:** No?

**Teresa:** No. So then... Obviously, when the French did it, more Europeans started doing it. And this is when literature started to circulate that suggested that not only grooming made their— your dog look better, but also that it was essential to their health.



In 1862, there was a book called *House Dogs and Sporting Dogs* by John Merrick. And it suggests that routinely bathing is a healthy thing for your dog. Whether they're a hunting companion or for fanciness.

There was another book in America called *The American Book of the Dog* by Geo Shield, which was written in the late 1800s, again about the importance of dog grooming.

**Travis:** It's a very interesting— If you think about it for two seconds too long. Or two seconds correct length.

**Teresa:** Mm.

**Travis:** You start to think about like how much of this maintenance and stuff we bred into dogs.

**Teresa:** Interesting.

**Travis:** Right? Like maybe not on purpose, but as we talked about like with a wolf, right. It isn't like a wolf is going to get a haircut, you know, once a month or whatever.

And listen, we can go long into the breeding of dogs and how it led to a lot of health problems in dogs. Issues in dalmatians and pugs and all kinds of stuff, where in seeking to get a certain aesthetic, you ended up causing like serious health problems for these dogs.

But more than that, like when we talk about fur versus hair, and like having to groom for sanitation, having to groom for— so they can see, right? These things where— Yeah, that's because we bred so a certain aesthetic of them and said, "Oh, we need to cut their hair."

**Teresa:** Mm. [chuckles] So by the early 1900s, there were lots of helpful things for dog grooming. Not only like you were talking about, but also like for fleas.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Right? As people decided that fleas weren't welcome on their bodies, they were also— they also decided that they didn't want them on their dogs.

And another thing that helped this was grooming, like you said, like shaving, right. And so around the 1920s, it's often said that both women and dogs got their hair bobbed.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** Yeah. So we've got a couple of different like pockets of different things. We've got in the '20s, people were into German Shepards and Newfoundlands. And then you've got the back swing to smaller dogs in the '30s, Boston terriers.

And then poodles came back in style in the '60s, here in the US, and it was like because they had so much hair that was easily kind of like styled, people would put flowers in their hair and things like that, right. And this is when hair dye started coming en vogue for dogs.

**Travis:** And listen, I don't know. In my heart, I haven't looked into my heart of the ethics of how I feel about dying a dog. But I like to see it.

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** It's cute, right?

**Teresa:** Now in the '60s and '70s, this is when, in the United States, we had high demand for professional groomers. But we didn't really have schools for groomers. It was more kind of like—

**Travis:** You had to learn on the streets.

**Teresa:** Yeah, it was more of a trade than a— than like an educational thing.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Right? But see a need, fill a need, right? This is when it started to... started to make it where like you had these kind of training schools and people could be certified in things. And you know, the industry would provide.

So, we have some specialists called Sally Liddick and Gwen Shelley, they founded a publishing company in 1981 that unified the industry through magazines and conferences and websites and social media, and even grooming shows, right?

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** And it's [chuckles] hilariously called "Barkley Publications."

**Travis:** Ahhh.

**Teresa:** I love it. I love it. So today, there are more than 25,000 groomers in the United States alone. Clipping nails, styling fur, washing coats.

And while the grooming industry remains relatively unregulated, all dog breeds are now studied profusely and styled precisely, with help of state of the art equipment that they use and up to date information. So you know, do your due diligence and find a groomer that will take care of you.

**Travis:** And it's especially important because... it's not just like a style thing of like, "I want this dog to look like the kind of dog it is" or whatever, right? There is also an element of, as you mentioned, health, right.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** That goes into it of whether it's making sure that the dog has like the warmth it needs if it's an outside dog. If it's a hunting dog, if it's a sporting dog, whatever, right. That it's like, "Okay great, there's a reason it has these coats and has this kind of thing."

But also, as we mentioned, sanitation being a thing, of it growing over its [whispers] private parts. [normal] Things about its eyes, its, you know, does it have basically long bushy eyebrows to like keep dirt out of it eyes while it's digging in the dirt. Or like its muzzle, does it have hair around it to protect it while it's doing this, right.

So when we talk about taking it to a groomer who knows what they're doing, it's not just "Does this groomer make the dog look the way I want it to."

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** But do they also understand like when to take care of the undercoat. When to, you know, leave this area long or let this area go short and all of these things, to keep the dog... healthy.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And safe.

**Teresa:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** We're gonna talk about some more specifics when we come back. But first! How about a word from another MaxFun show?

[transition theme music plays]

**Brenda Snell:** Have you ever wanted to know the sad lore behind Chuck E Cheese's love of birthday parties?

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[pause]

**John Hodgeman:** The following are real reenactments of pretend emergency calls.

**Operator:** 911.

**Caller One:** [panicked] My husband! It's my husband!

**Operator:** Calm down, please. What about your husband?

**Caller One:** He loads the dishwasher wrong. Please help! [while crying]  
Please help me.

[call transition sound effect plays]

**Operator:** Where are you now, ma'am?

**Caller Two:** At the kitchen table. I was with my dad. He mispronounces words intentionally.

**John Hodgeman:** There are plenty of podcasts on the hunt for justice, but only one podcast has the courage to take on the silly crimes. *Judge John Hodgeman*. The only true crime podcast that won't leave you feeling sad and bad and scared for once. Only on [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org).

[pause]

**Travis:** Teresa. Tell me some etiquette, please.

**Teresa:** Absolutely. There are a couple of things that you can do at home. I mean, short of trimming your own dog's hair, of course. You can get your animal used to being touched in the same ways that a dog groomer could touch them, especially things like their paws, right.

**Travis:** In general— Now I was also a dog trainer. That one I did do for a while.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Travis:** That one I actually do know a thing about.

**Teresa:** That was a while.

**Travis:** In general, what you wanna do, the paws are important not just for grooming, but also it's like the number one way that a dog— You know, I mean when they're walking around.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Tongue and mouth is usually the number one way they interact with anything. But walking around right, if your dog is going to get an injury, like on a walk or a hike or whatever, it's probably on their paws. And you want them to trust you.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** To pick up their paw and look at it. You don't want a dog who like either pulls it away or like nips at you when you try to look at their paw, or else you might miss... something that's wrong.

And dogs can't tell you when something it wrong. So one of the first things that I would train people to do with their dog is like have a like, "Touch their paw, give them a treat," and like also like kind of pet them all over.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** To play with them, to kinda begin the engagement of play. Which is one, fun for the dogs, they like getting pets, but also your chance to see like, "Oh, I kinda pushed on this area and they pulled away. Is something wrong? I pull— You know, I lifted their leg and they kinda winced and made a noise."

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** "Something might be wrong with one of their joints."

**Teresa:** You wanna do the kind of like favorable conditioning, right?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** So, equate this touch with a good experience, so that it makes it easier, like you said, to check their health, but also to get them groomed. You can also take them to the groomer relatively early.

Now we wanna make sure that puppies are safe and they get all their shots and their immunity is up so that they don't get sick at the groomer. But you know, the place that you take them to will usually have some sort of, you know, "puppies have to be so many weeks old in order to go here"

whatever. And the more that you take them, the more used to it they'll be, right?

Another thing that you can do is brush your dogs. You might feel like your dog doesn't really need to get brushed, but maybe they... need it in like the way of like if you're bathing them, they need that old hair removed in order to get to the other hair for it to be cleaned, right?

So, we still have to brush the dogs. I brush our dogs more often when they're shedding, obviously. [chuckles] But there's a lot of great tools out there. There are different rakes for undercoat, there are different groomer sort of brushes that I—

I really like the equi-groomer style. It's got tiny little teeth that grab onto the loose hairs, but leave all the other ones, and the dogs— You can do it over and over because it doesn't ever touch their skin, right?

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** And then, you know, make sure that you check their feet and ears often. Those are places, like you said, where you can get debris, and uncomfortability things there, but also ears need to be cleaned as well.

And... like I said, the more that you take them in, the more that you condition them that this is a good thing, the more that grooming them will be a success.

**Travis:** Now, so here's the thing about fur versus hair.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** So... They're made of the same thing. It's keratin.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Both ker— It's the same thing as fingernails and stuff. But basically some dogs have hair. And some dogs have fur.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** And so a poodle is an example of a poodle grows hair. A yorkie grows hair. Maltese... Shih Tzu... that's just off the top of my head. I think there are other ones. But basically, one is like the density, right. Dogs with fur tend to have more follicles, so it grows closer together.

**Teresa:** Mm.

**Travis:** And hair grows slower than fur. Um... And it mostly is like... about like the softness of it, right.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** So, when you think about like a yorkie, Maltese, Shih Tzu. Think about a Shih Tzu, right?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** These long, flowing, you know, things.

**Teresa:** Tendrils.

**Travis:** That's what we're talking about, right? Now also. There are some dogs with fur where the fur keep grow— So like we have Lilly and Buttercup, right? If you don't get Buttercup a haircut, she gets very fuzzy, right. Hair keeps growing, right.

**Teresa:** In all directions.

**Travis:** In all directions.

**Teresa:** She's just kind of roundish. [chuckles]

**Travis:** She just kinda keeps puffin' up, right. Lily. Lily doesn't need a haircut really. Lily's hair sheds, you know, shorter, right, then Buttercup's does. Lily sheds more. So Lily does not need a haircut. She still needs groomed, right. Still needs bathed.

But there are some dogs where their fur keeps growing, and some dogs where it doesn't, right. Which is another thing to know when you talk about how often they need grooming versus bathing versus nail dremel versus whatever. Right?



**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** Okay. Also.

**Teresa:** Oh.

**Travis:** Dog's that have an undercoat, right? That grows out I believe during the winter.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** To keep `em warm. If they're indoor dogs, that's really not as much— it's really not as necessary, but that then will need to be like brushed out, right. So like this—

**Teresa:** Right, as it sheds, yeah. The blowing coat.

**Travis:** This is another reason to like, have a groomer who knows what they're doing, instead of just like, I don't know, taking a trimmer to them at home by yourself, right. It's to know when to take care of that, how to take care of it so it doesn't get matted.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** So the dog doesn't get— have issues. `Cause that's the other thing, matted hair on a dog can lead to issues with the skin, can—

**Teresa:** And open wounds.

**Travis:** And open wounds. And when you are— If you decide to like bathe your dog at home, which is perfectly fine. Very different from like grooming them at home. Make sure you have specific dog... shampoo.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And conditioner and stuff.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Usually something with a probiotic, right. 'Cause there's— When you get dog smell, wet dog smell.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It's because there is bacteria in dog fur, right? A lot of that's to like help protect them. It's good bacteria. And so, the probiotic stuff helps keep the good stuff that they are supposed to have on their fur and skin, and get rid of the bad stuff.

Avoid getting water in their ears and nose and eyes. Well you don't wanna get shampoo in their eyes. And if you blow-dry them, do not blow-dry on their nose, right.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And dog's nose is very, very sensitive. You don't wanna dry it out, you don't wanna heat it up. Same with like blowing air in their ears. Don't do that. So be— I usually blow-dry from the neck down, and then hand dry the face.

**Teresa:** And you should dry your dogs as best as you can, even if it's just with a towel, because as they are wet, they'll want to rub on your furniture. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** To dry themselves off. And that also can encourage matting. As far as going to the groomer, keep your dog calm. Keep yourself calm as you are dropping off at the groomer. And don't come back until you are notified that the dog is ready to be picked up.

Because if you came back early, and your dog was on a groomer's table, that might cause them to get very excited. And that not only is dangerous for the dog, it makes the groomer's job harder, so stay out of sight until your dog is finished.

**Travis:** Also.

**Teresa:** One last thing.

**Travis:** Oh. Oh.

**Teresa:** Be specific about what you want your groomer to do with your dog, if it is an aesthetic cut. You're welcome to bring in pictures, right.

But I have seen many an internet [chuckles] shaming of a dog, where "I wanted their tail cut in a heart," and what happened was they didn't—they weren't specific enough, and so now they have a shaved heart in their butt.

Or they said, "Make sure you trim the dog's paw fur," and then you end up with a dog that has naked paws. Or whatever it is, right. If you want something specific, bring a picture, be specific so that you both are on the same page.

**Travis:** And if you're the groomer and you're listening to this, like triple check.

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** Like, "Okay. This is what I'm gonna do. This is what you want, right? This is what you're saying, right?" And it goes the other way too, like Buttercup for example, especially as a terrier, if they trim her beard, it does— she does not like right.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Right? She looks like a little rat.

**Teresa:** Well, no, they can trim her beard, but I don't want her beard shaved off, right. It's not—

**Travis:** Yeah, same with her tail, right.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** If they... take all of the like shaggy fur off, you know, she needs to look kinda wild and hairy, right.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It needs to have fur coming off the tail, or else she looks like... a wet rat.

**Teresa:** Yeah, just clean up the beard.

**Travis:** Just clean up the beard. The other thing is, if you are an owner and you're bringing your dog in for grooming, and there are idiosyncrasies that you know about your dog... Tell the groomer, right? Just like if they're going to boarding, tell the boarder.

Because like for example, I remember there was a dog that when I was 16, it's one of the only times I've ever been bit by a dog. And he was a very, very sweet rottweiler. He was very sweet, he was a good boy, and then I went to get him, and made these like slip leads. You know when it's like the ring and the rope.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And he puts it— Right. And I walked up to like, "Hey, let's go," and he freaked out. Because he doesn't like leads, he doesn't like it going over his head.

**Teresa:** Mm.

**Travis:** Now, in that circumstance, the owner had told one of my terrible bosses, and my terrible boss had not told me.

**Teresa:** Aww.

**Travis:** And so, the rottweiler freaked out and I ended up getting nipped. But once again, he wasn't trying to hurt me, right. He was—

**Teresa:** He was scared.

**Travis:** He was scared. But anything like that where you're like, "He doesn't like—" You know there are dogs where they don't like being pet so that your hand goes over their eyes, right. Or there's dogs who don't like the leads, there's dogs who whatever.

**Teresa:** And as you get established at a groomer, the groomer will know these things as well.

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** There's also things for health, like Buttercup is old. We suspect she may have some softening in her trachea.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** We don't keep a thick collar on her anymore, she just has an ID tag. So, if they are grooming her, we want to keep pressure off of her neck, right.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** That's another good thing to tell them.

**Travis:** And just in general, of like, "Yeah, she doesn't really jump up and down off of tables anymore."

**Teresa:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** You know, stuff like that.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You know, you can bring your own treats or food for the groomers to give them if your dog has a sensitive stomach, right. All of these things. Now all that said, add it up too much and it starts to sound very high maintenance.

But I would say, if I were a groomer and I had somebody bring their dog to me, I would rather know too much about what the person wants, than not enough. Or rather, what the dog needs.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Than not enough. Because I would feel absolutely terrible if a dog got hurt or something while I was taking care of them, because the owner was worried about seeming high maintenance or whatever.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And didn't tell me. So in general, you want to give the information that the person needs.

**Teresa:** Hey, this sounds like a difficult job. You should tip your groomer. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah, you should tip your groomer. Especially like... Man, I don't know if this is universal, but I feel like it's hard to get grooming appointments. And so, it's a matter of like if you want to have a good relationship with a groomer.

Whether it's tattoo artist, a massage therapist, wherever, where it's like, "I might need an appointment on more short notice than 'I have availability six months from now'," cool. Tip them. Build a good relationship with them. And you know who else we have a good relationship with, Teresa?

**Teresa:** Is it our listeners?

**Travis:** Our listeners! Thank you listeners for supporting us. Just FYI, the MaxFun Drive is coming up pretty soon here in a couple weeks. And that's your chance to show some support for the podcast and artists that you love. We'll tell you more about it when it comes up.

We also want to say thank you to our researcher Alex, without whom we could not do the show. Thank you to our editor Rachel, without whom we could not do the show. Thank you for listening. You're great. There, I said it.

**Teresa:** But we don't wanna do the show without you.

**Travis:** We don't want to, 'cause you're great. And you— You're that special sauce, you know.

**Teresa:** [chuckles] Okay. Alright.

**Travis:** You're the salt in our eyes. And I think—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** No, wait. If you haven't already, go to [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com), check that out. We've got a lot of great stuff over there. And I also wanna let everybody know, I have a Twitch channel, [twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy](http://twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy).

And this Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, and 8:30pm eastern time, I'm going to be playing some *Dungeons & Dragons* with some friends of mine. Ollo Clark is running the game, me, Tybee Diskin, Verona Blue, and Gabe Hicks are playing. That's over at [twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy](http://twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy). 8:30pm on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Be there. What else, Teresa?

**Teresa:** We also like to thank Brent "Brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also thank you to Bruja Betty Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, *Fanners Shmanners*.

If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today. As always, we are taking your topic suggestions, your questions, your idioms. Send those to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com) and say hi to Alex, because she reads every one.

**Travis:** And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required.

**Travis:** You've been listening to *Shmanners*.

**Teresa:** Manner *Shmanners*. Get it.

[outro theme music plays]

[ukulele chord]

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