

# Puppy Love

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## What is that SMELL?

You're not imagining it, it's actually very common for a dog's paws to smell like Fritos. The corn chip odor, which some human noses interpret as more of a popcorn scent, is a byproduct of yeast and bacteria that naturally reside on the skin of all animals, including dogs. Dr. Robert J. Silver, a Colorado-based veterinarian, says there are two types of natural bacteria that make their way from soil or water into the crevices of a paw that give dogs that snack food smell. Dog's feet contain many folds and pockets, such as the areas between the toes and footpads. These areas are prone to higher levels of moisture and reduced air circulation, causing bacteria and yeast to proliferate. These microorganisms give off odors and those odors are similar to the way yeast gives off a particular odor during the fermentation of dough. Dogs cool their body through the pads on their feet creating a perfect environment for sweat to permeate the surrounding hair. Trimming the hair on a dog's feet with a regular bathing schedule should eliminate "Frito feet"



Olivia is home in Maryland enjoying the holiday.

*Every day with a dog  
is a gift.*



## Frito Feet is Bath Time!

Gently spread your dog's pads apart using your fingers. Trim around the pads, but do not trim in between the toes. Carefully trim hair on the bottom of the foot to be level with the pads. If you are certain your little doxie has "Frito feet" bath them in Dawn dish detergent to remove the oil build up in the hair. Follow this with your normal bathing products, be sure to work shampoo into a lather, especially on their feet. If this does eliminate the foot odor soak your dog's feet in vinegar or hydrogen peroxide for a few minutes. If this doesn't work see your veterinarian for professional treatment.



## Me & My Feet

*Brevibacterium* is present on human skin and permeates on the foot causing foot odor. The familiar odor is due to a sulphur containing compound known as S-methyl. It is the same bacterium used to ferment several cheeses. As Bill Bryson, a contemporary author, puts it, "If you are in good health and averagely diligent about hygiene, you will have a herd of about one trillion bacteria grazing on your fleshy plains; about a hundred thousand of them on every square centimeter of skin."



Feet in poor health can be the sign of a more serious condition. If your little doxie's feet condition does not improve he needs to see your veterinarian.