

On Grooming

As yinrih do not sweat, bathing is less frequent compared to humans. Yinrih from most cultures bathe weekly (about every 12 Terran days), usually before or after torpor. A comprehensive yinrih shower may take upward of an hour from start to finish, as a yinrih's entire coat of fur requires the same level of care as a human's scalp, including shampoo, conditioner, and lots and lots of drying and brushing.

Yinrih are just as chatty while showering as they are while using the restroom. As with their toilets, cynoid showers are optimized for hygiene but not privacy. Spas are as much a social gathering spot as restaurants and bars. Indeed, businesses offering both a bath and a bite are quite common.

Depending on what part of Focus you are in, houses will have a public room set aside for showering separate from any toilets. This may be an outdoor area in climates that are warm year-round. When staying as a guest in a private home for longer than a week, one will be offered a shower in the same way one would be offered a meal. Clean fur, a full belly, and a roof over one's back are the three quintessential things a host gives to a guest. Humans are advised to bring a bathing suit and hang out and chat as you would in a hot tub, with the only difference being some of the people are lathering up. Most yinrih understand the human desire for privacy when bathing to get clean, though that won't stop them from trying to hold a conversation with you from the other room.

A typical yinrih "wet room" as they are often called, has several shower heads lining the walls. They may be fixed in place or they may be designed to be healed in the tail. The floor slopes gently toward a gutter running down the center of the room designed to both drain water and whisk away shed fur. The floor itself is textured to prevent slipping.

More spacious homes have an anteroom set aside for drying. The walls or floor will be covered in bristly mats that the yinrih wallows on or rubs against to brush out their coat. More modest wet rooms have to double for drying and brushing, with brush mats that are removed for showering and replaced for drying. High velocity coat dryers are ubiquitous.

Keeping one's nose wet is an important part of yinrih grooming. A wet nose helps aid the sense of smell, and a dry chapped nose is uncomfortable. A glistening wet nose is also considered aesthetically pleasing.

In addition to the nose's natural mucus, wetness is maintained with an occasional lick. In dry climates, however, nose balm is used to prevent the nose from drying out. Unlike human lip balms, which are often mildly flavored, cynoid nose balm is invariably scentless. Indeed, many brands are advertised as having "negative odor", possessing no smell of their own but enhancing surrounding odors.