

Basic Equipment for start-up

Clippers- Oster Golden A5 2 speed clipper or andis corded 2 speed or Moser Max45

Oster Blades - 1 X No 10 { groin /hygiene clip }

2 X No 7F { short blades }

2 X No 5F {medium blades}

1 X No 4F {med/long blade }

1 X No 3 {Long blade}

1 X No 40 for use with below {surg blade}

Plastic comb attachments { box laube selection best value}

Scissors- Roseline 7.5ins Straight Scissor /Roseline 8ins Straight Scissor

Cheaper straighter scissors for dirty work

Small blunt end for between pads etc.

Thinning Shears - Roseline 6ins Thinning Scissor

Dryer/ Blaster combi -The Ready 2 Groom 170 Dryer with adjustable stand

OR

Simpsons "Supajet Extra Dryer" + "Powerjet 1000 Blaster"

Dematters- Mikki Matt Breaker { grey and white}

Brushes etc - Universal Slickers {standard}

Undercoat rake

Comb - med/coarse metal

Nail clippers {plier's type}

Ear forceps

Trimmex Blood Stopper

Ear Powder

Collapsible cages - {available from Argos approx €62}

Shampoo's - general use

Tea tree

Conditioner

Coal tar

Flea

Baby

Control/ Handling -

Muzzles - large and small

Nooses

Slip leads

Miscellaneous

Cotton wool

Towels

Rubber gloves

Anti slip mat for bath

Bath

Table / counter top {topped with rubber or rubber matting}

Waterproof apron

Work wear { hair resistant }

Basic Health and Safety

Your Personal Safety:

- Always Dry Wet Hands BEFORE approaching Electrical equipment.
- Never have electrical leads stretching across a floor or walkway area.
- Keep floors dry or have warning signs
- Always lift correctly bending the knees and keeping your back straight.
- Always ask for help with larger loads.
- Never twist from the waist while carrying something, keep your feet in line with your shoulders.
- Read instructions on medicated shampoos or insecticides.
- Don't take chances, muzzles can be taken off but fingers are difficult to put back on.
- Use tools correctly.

Your Animals Safety:

- Ensure secure collars on dogs being handed over to you.
- Ensure all are securely caged when not being worked on.
- Never leave a dog unattended on a table.
- Never leave them unattended in the bath.
- Make sure no wires are accessible to chewers.
- Have a secondary door.
- Raise awareness of badly fitting collars when owner is leaving.{if extra holes/adjustment can't be done while with you.}
- Use tools correctly.

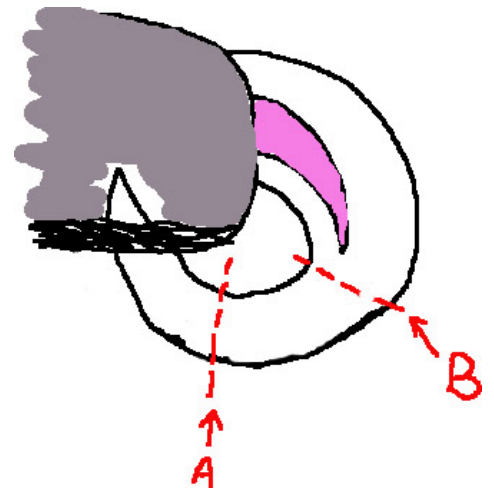
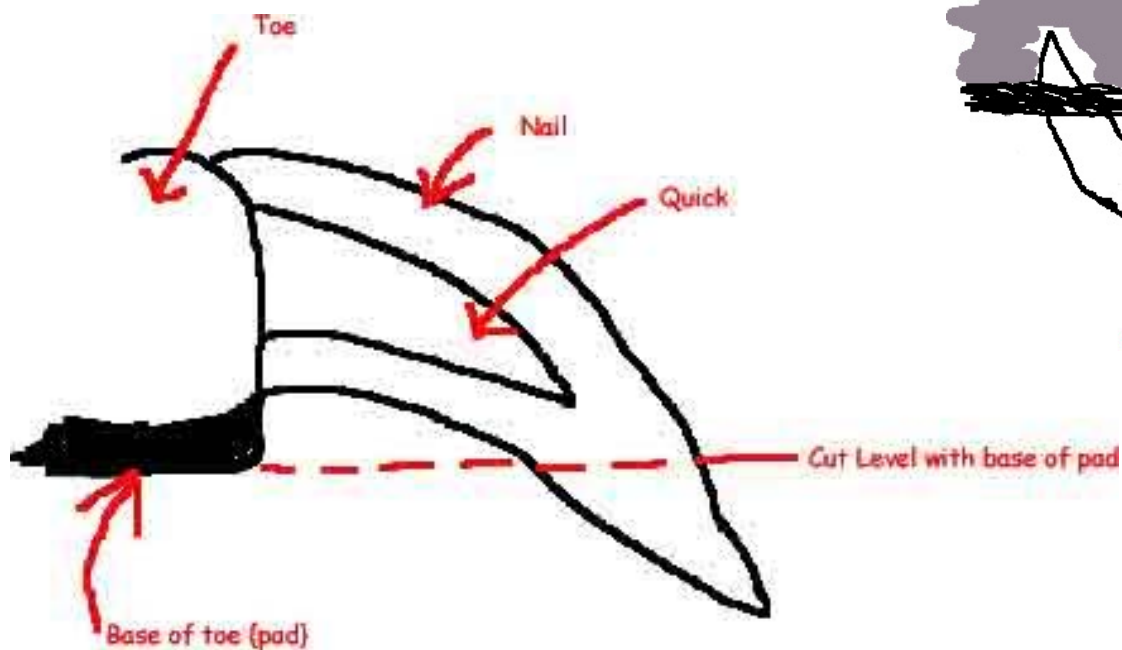
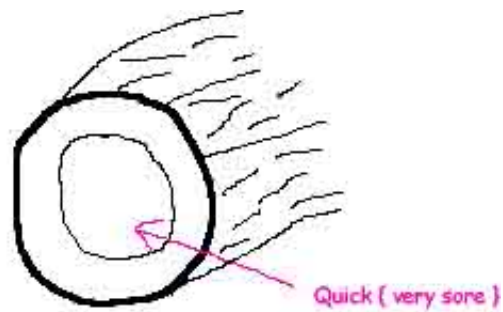
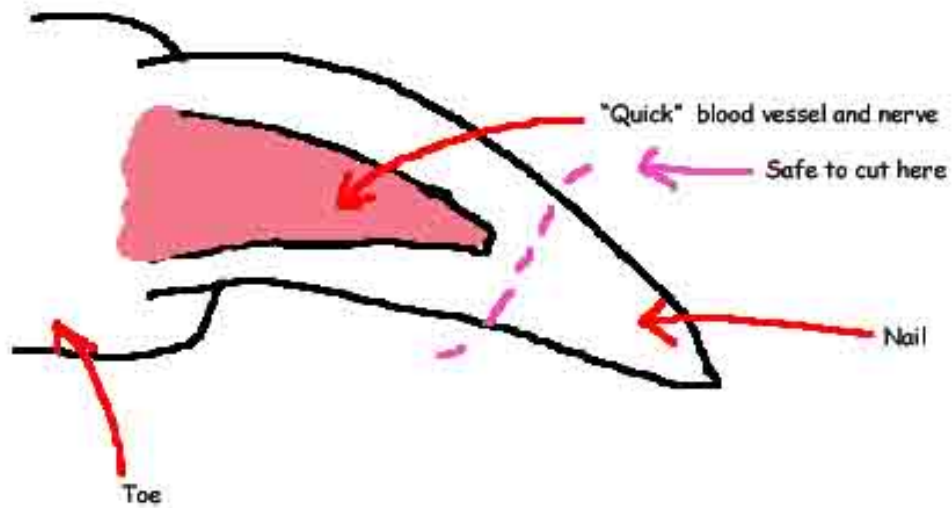
Public Safety:

- Never have electrical wires stretching across the floor or walkway area.
- Keep entrances clear.
- Keep walkways clear.
- Have walkways lit up at dusk or dawn.
- Keep Floor areas dry or have warning signs.
- Have decals on glass doors.

PRE-BATH PREPARATION

- ❑ Pads - all excess hair removed from between pads {main and digital} checking for foreign bodies and plugs of muck.
- ❑ Nails - all checked and trimmed where necessary including dewclaws front and back where present.
- ❑ Ears - checked and cleaned, hair removed where applicable. If spaniel ears, then a diamond shape trimmed into inside ear flap with No 10 blade.
- ❑ Bottom - check and carefully trim hair approx $\frac{1}{4}$ inch around anus.
- ❑ Check lower lip folds or flews - clip and clean if needed.
- ❑ Excess hair removed from inside corner of eyes.
- ❑ Groin /hygiene area clipped with No 10 blade .
- ❑ Coat gets fully groomed out removing all mats and tangles.
- ❑ If the dog is having a "clipped style" then at this point he is usually rough clipped {please note not all coats are clipped} to remove excess hair.
- ❑ Assess dogs coat and skin to choose most suitable shampoo.
- ❑ When in the bath just before washing check and express anal glands.

Nails Pictures



Bathing and Blasting

Bathing is a very important part of the grooming procedure. If a dog is not squeaky clean then your grooming job is always going to be 2nd rate. Before bathing the dog all the pre-bath preparation should be carried out. Always have your towels ready before commencing the bath, this limits the amount of water that gets dripped around the salon which can lead to someone slipping and injuring themselves and/or any dog they may be carrying. The bath should have a non-slip mat in the bottom to make the animal feel more secure. Also all equipment including shampoos should be within easy reach.

- ❑ The animal should be secured in the bath with a slip noose/lead. There is nothing worse than trying to hang onto a slippery soapy wriggly animal.
- ❑ Take extra care when handling young, elderly or infirm animals. Large and giant breeds can also slip causing themselves injury due to their bulk. Tiny breeds also require greater care when handling.
- ❑ Cotton wool is placed in the dog's ears to stop water entering, which can lead to a nasty ear infection.
- ❑ It is advisable to wear gloves for hygiene reasons and also to protect your own skin from continued exposure to shampoo's and chemicals. A waterproof apron is also important.
- ❑ Baby shampoo is used on a dog's head/face to reduce the chance of damage to the eyes. If shampoo enters a dog's eyes it can burn the surface of the cornea causing an ulcer, which is very painful for the dog and upsetting for the owner.
- ❑ Always wash the head of the dog last because once the ears and head are wet the dog is more inclined to shake.
- ❑ A shampoo solution rather than neat shampoo is used to wash the dog as it is quicker to rinse thus making it more efficient time wise as well as using less water and electricity.
- ❑ Being easier to rinse effectively means less chance of shampoo residue being left in the coat, which will cause skin irritation.
- ❑ When washing, areas to pay particular attention to are the bottom, genitals, between pads and toes, armpits, and folds at mouth.
- ❑ Always give the coat/skin a good massage when bathing as this helps shift dead skin cells, dirt and grime and stimulates the glands in the skin helping to keep it healthy.
- ❑ Remember to NEVER put a dog in the bath without first removing all mats, knots and tangles. The action of washing just tightens all these up, sometimes making them impossible to remove without shaving the animal.
- ❑ Some dogs will need to be washed more than once if particularly dirty.
- ❑ Depending on the coat of the dog conditioner might be needed; this can either be added to the shampoo solution creating a conditioning shampoo or used after the shampoo has been rinsed from the coat. The conditioner itself is then rinsed from the coat unless it is designed as a "leave-in" product.

Bathing and Blasting

- ❑ Always follow the instructions on any shampoo which the owner may bring having had it supplied by their vet. Sometimes these shampoos are not great cleansers so the animal may need to be washed first and then treated with the veterinary shampoo.
- ❑ Always thoroughly wet the animal before you start using your shampoo solution. The thicker denser coats can need more work to get them wet- holding the spray head closer to the body helps ease the water through the coat rather than just bouncing off the top.
- ❑ When rinsing the dog always start at the top and work down the body. Pay particular attention to all the underside of the dog and the armpit areas and once you are sure the dog is fully rinsed run the water spray along the undercarriage and the armpits once more. Leaving shampoo residue in the dogs coat WILL cause severe irritation and skin problems

Never underestimate the importance of proper rinsing

- ❑ Working in a routine- {for example clockwise around the body} makes it less likely you will miss areas if you get distracted or have to answer the phone {assuming it is beside the bath!}
- ❑ **NEVER** leave a dog unattended in the bath even if tethered.
- ❑ When you are finished this stage the excess water gets removed from the coat using a piece of equipment called a blaster. The more water that is removed at this stage the less drying time is required.
- ❑ Take care when using a blaster on a dog for the first time- introduce it slowly starting at the rear to gauge the animals reaction. Some tiny breeds are not suitable for blasting.
- ❑ Protect the ear canals, genitals, and anus when using a blaster. **NEVER** use a blaster on a head. Improper use could prolapse an eye {remove it from it's socket} or ear drums could be damaged. A blaster is a wonderful piece of equipment but as with everything, it needs to be handled safely and responsibly.
- ❑ When blasting is completed, a towel is used to dry off the head and feet. A quick towel dry all over follows this and the animal is ready for the next stage of drying.

Dematting/Shave-downs

An animal that is matted beyond the point of being able to remove such matting, without being unfair to the dog, should be shaved. The idea is to hopefully learn from the experience and by guidance from you the owners can start again to grow and maintain a nice coat on their dog.

A pale-coated animal {e.g. blonde or white} can tolerate less grooming out than a darker coloured one before the skin becomes inflamed. Some animals are more sensitive than others and have a lower tolerance to heavy dematting. If a dog repeatedly arrives in a very matted state I would advise shaving it, as the home situation is unlikely to change therefore I don't feel it justifies putting the animal through on going discomfort.

Certain areas on the dog {e.g.- behind the ears or the armpits} should be clipped with a No 10 blade if matted, as this area is particularly sensitive. I usually try to remove the matted coat with the longest blade possible. For example if it can be removed with a No 4F / 9mm blade there is no need to jump in straight away with a 7F / 3mm. You should work slowly when clipping the matted coat as the mats could be pulling the skin into an unnatural position, which might not be easily visible thus increasing the risk of cutting/nicking the dog. Matting may be hiding warts/lumps/bumps/old injuries or open sores.

Clip as much of the body as possible with your first choice of blade. Matting on legs can quite often be worse requiring you to change to a shorter blade. Try and save some hair on the tail and head if at all possible to leave the animal with a wee bit of shape / character but this is not always possible and the animal's comfort must come first.

When an area of coat is going to be dematted there are several actions you can take. Some times blasting the coat can help split down the matting or even blast them out of the coat {e.g. collies- border and rough, Samoyeds, shelties}. Other methods include splitting down large areas of matting into more manageable pieces using a mat splitter {e.g. Oliver "moon shaped" splitter or the grey and white mikki splitter} All such pieces of equipment should be used with great care as they usually involve blades of some kind, which if used carelessly can cut through skin just as easily as matting. A thinning shears can also be used for this task. Once separated down into small mats they can then be brushed from the coat using a slicker brush with a light feathery action. A comb is then used to double check the area is tangle and mat free.

Some times rubbing corn flour into a matted coat and then leaving the dog for ½ hour or so can aid in the removal of mats. A dog should not be bathed until it is totally mat and tangle free as the action of washing just tightens up mats, which makes them more difficult to remove.

If a neglected coat is being shaved off it can be worthwhile getting the owner to sign a consent form giving permission for the dog to be shaved as the kinder option. I would also usually warn / explain that the animal is going to look very different when they return. In cases like this "before and after" pictures of other dogs who have been shaved, demonstrate much better than you could explain in words. Quite often when a dog is shaved it does not have a natural look to it especially collies, retrievers/setters/spitz type breeds/Pomeranians.

General tidy ups

Some breeds of dogs such as the list given do not get clipped as such when in the salon but do receive some styling

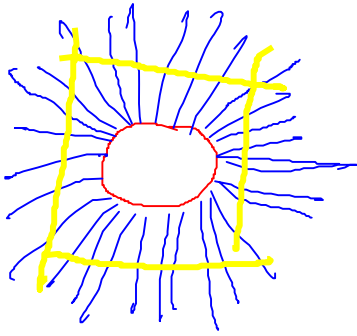
- ❑ Rough Collie
- ❑ Sheltie {Shetland sheepdog}
- ❑ Border collie
- ❑ Pomeranian
- ❑ All the spitz varieties, Samoyed being the most popular
- ❑ Golden Retrievers
- ❑ Setters - Red, Red+White, Gordon, English
- ❑ Tibetan spaniel
- ❑ Long haired dachshund
- ❑ German Shepard / Alsatian
- ❑ Newfoundland
- ❑ St Bernard
- ❑ Pekinese

Most of these dogs require substantial grooming out before they ever get to the bath. All the usual pre bath prepping and hygiene is attended to.

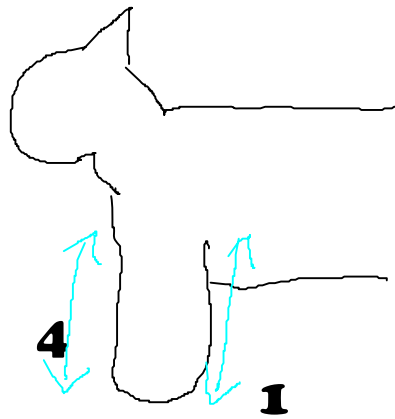
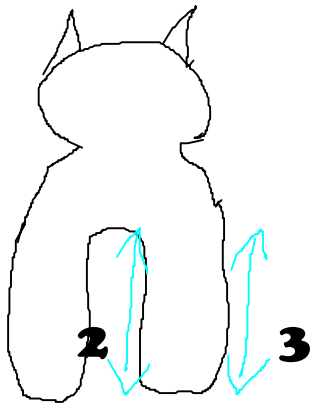
Where required, the following styling can be done to tidy up the outline of the dog. The dog should not appear overly sculptured but neater and smarter.

- ❑ If the ears stand erect on the dog the top 1/3 of the ears can be edged with a scissors / thinning shears
- ❑ Excess hair around and under ear can be removed or thinned with shears or coat king.
- ❑ The feathering on the back of the fore legs can be trimmed / shaped
- ❑ Tufts between toes, were present are removed with thinning shears to give nice neat foot
- ❑ Excess hair from the hock down removed with thinning shears
- ❑ Pantaloon - length taken up if falling below hock. trimmed in up side down "V". Over all bulk can be reduced by thinning out with shears placed in at the base of the hair, {down by the skin} or by working from the outside with a coat king or thinning shears acting as a shortener {rather than a thinner! }
- ❑ The tummy line can be neatened / shortened as required in a gentle slope up towards the tuck up / groin area.
- ❑ If the chest area is heavily coated {for example on a golden retriever} using a coat king with the direction of the coat can lighten the weight but yet retaining a natural look.
- ❑ Tail furnishings will be flag or plume like. Comb out and tidy up end by grasping length and twisting hair- trim with thinning shears. Then hold tip of bone and comb down flag and trim in a arc from tip of the bone towards the dog .

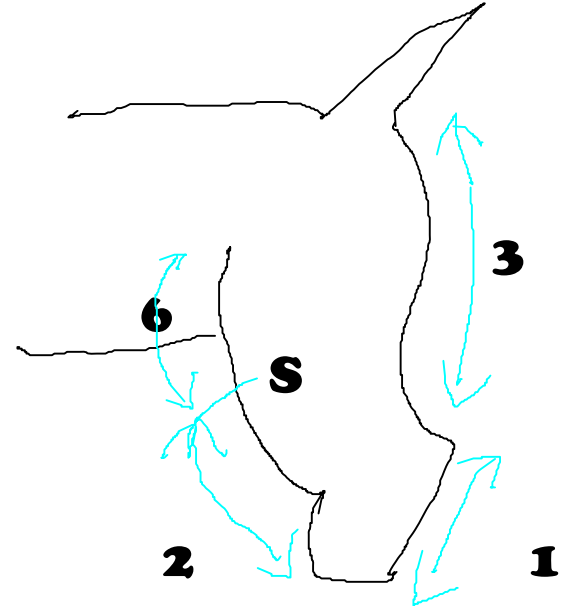
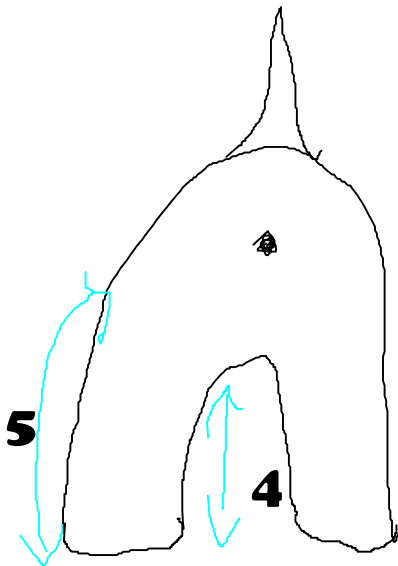




Imagine the leg as a box and you approach the trimming as if you are trimming the 4 sides of a box .This sketch is a view from above looking down the bone of the leg



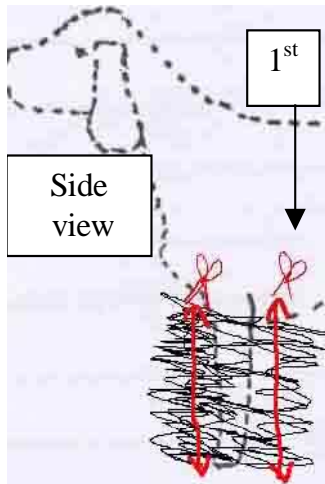
Front Legs



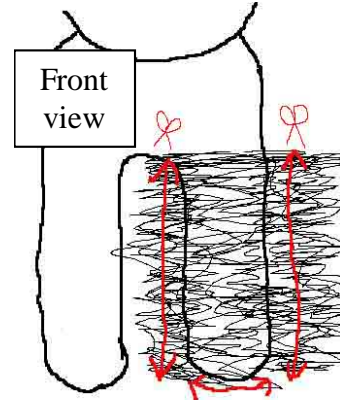
Rear Legs

{ **S** marks the stifle joint }

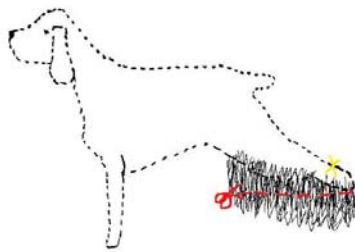
Trimming Legs



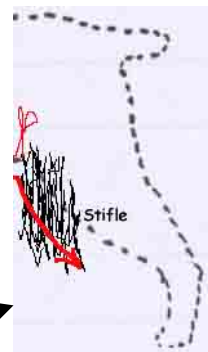
Full legs To begin, comb all the hair down on the leg and lift up the foot and trim away any hair that comes down over the edge of the foot. When trimming legs that are full or woolly, treat the leg like a four-sided box. Creating one side of the box at a time. Comb all the hair straight out from the leg and trim in a straight-line parallel to the bone of the leg. When this is repeated on four sides you usually have a nicely trimmed leg, sometimes the “edges of the box” need rounding off. If you do the



back of the leg 1st followed by the 2 sides you quite often don't need to take

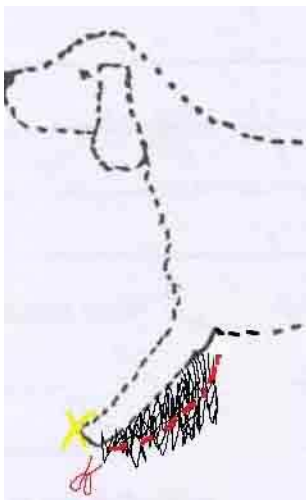


anything off the front side as is has been trimmed somewhat while working on the sides. You follow the same principle for the hind legs. Comb all the hair up and out from the leg. When trimming the lower front side of the hind leg hold the leg out straight behind the dog {hold at yellow X} and trim in a straight line from the

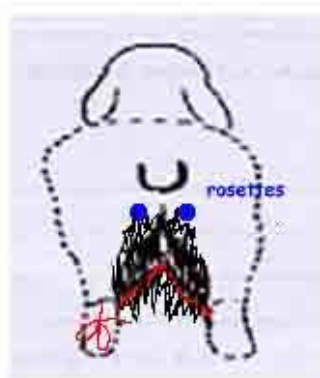


stifle to the toes. To trim the area from the stifle up, on the front edge of the leg it is best to work with the dog standing on the leg.

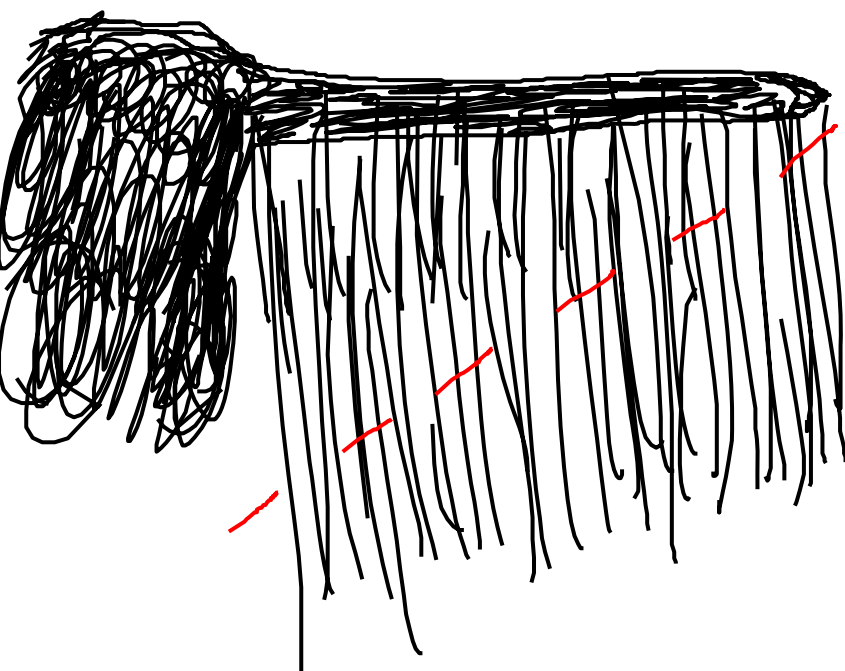
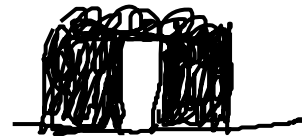
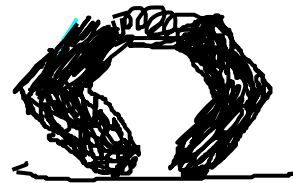
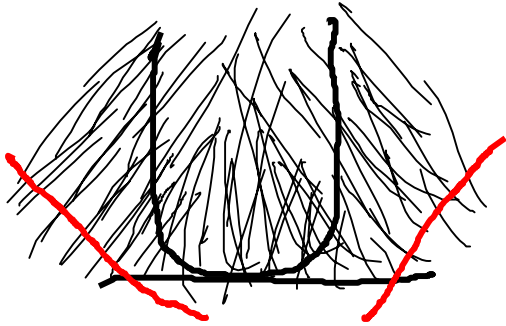
Featherings:



Legs that have distinct featherings as opposed to being woolly all over are trimmed slightly differently. To trim fore leg furnishings hold the leg by the foot {yellow X} comb all feathering straight and trim, using either a scissors or thinning shears, from the foot in a curve or arc up the leg to the elbow. If feathering needs to be thinned out that can be done with a thinning shears at the base of the feathering. The front of the hind leg is trimmed as above by holding out the leg behind the dog and trimming a straight line followed by the upper front part of the leg with the dog standing. The feathering on the rear of the hind leg hangs from the rosette down but not usually lower then the hock. From the hock down is trimmed short with either thinning shears or scissors.

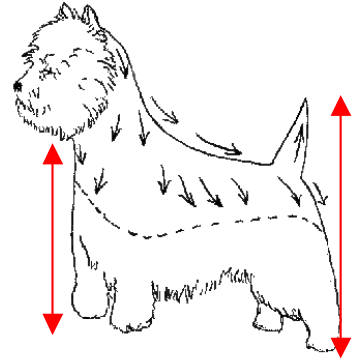


Trimming around edge of foot with foot on table - Hold scissors at 45 deg angle



West Highland White Terrier {Westie}

Body: Starting at the back of the skull using No 4F / 9mm blade clip with the hair down the neck along the spine to the base of the tail. Continue with same blade down the sides of the neck to the elbow. Next continue down the sides of the ribcage to a line just at or just below the widest part of the ribcage {depending on what suits the particular dog}. Clip down over hip area slightly on rear legs. Turning the dog to face away from you clip down it's backside to expose the rosettes. If the tail is nice and chunky it can be clipped but it will usually look better if trimmed with thinning shears or scissored. With the dog facing you hold the nose up and clip from the throat down to the breastbone.



Head: {all done with the dog facing you} Clip top 1/3 each ear tip on both sides with No 10 blade. Scissor around edges of clipped area to neaten. Comb the hair on the back of the ear so that it naturally falls either side of the ear. Fold the ear in half so that the outside edges lie together and trim the excess hair poking out over the edges of the ear. Next comb down and trim straight across, the hair under the chin area while gently holding the dogs muzzle. Next working on one side at a time, comb down the hair on the side of the face and heading backwards, trim in an arc/curve to join up with outside edge of each ear. To trim the hair on the top of the head, comb up and grasp between your fingers all the hair on the top of the head {from eye back to ear on both sides and all in-between!} Use your thinning shears to shorten this hair. Then comb back down this hair and using your comb lift all the hair on the side of the face from the eye back. When viewed from the front any hair sticking out from the "round" shape you are aiming for is removed with your thinning shears used pointing upwards and curving in slightly over the top of the head. Finally the fringe is trimmed by combing all the hair on the top of the head forward. When viewed from above you trim a straight line {one side at a time from nose out to each side} a little in front of the eyes. When combed back into natural lie you then check to see if a little more needs to be removed at the outside corners of the eyes. When viewed from the front the finished head should appear round and dish like !

Legs: Comb down all leg furnishings and trim neatly around foot. Comb out and trim all of the legs. The front legs should appear like two sturdy columns when viewed from the front. The rear legs should show some angulation. Legs are not to appear "puffy".

Chest: Trim down the chest furnishing with a thinning shears to lie flat and not sticking out when viewed from the side.

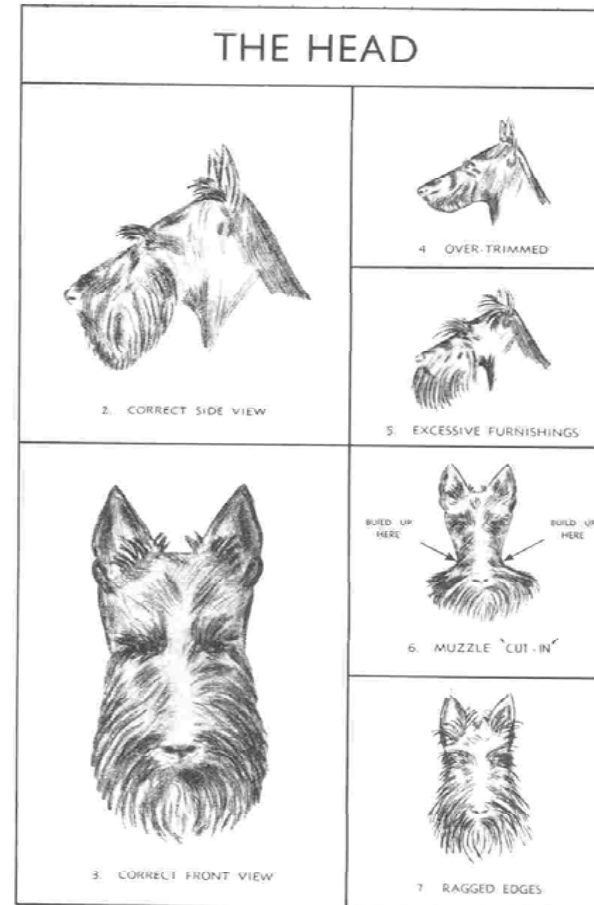
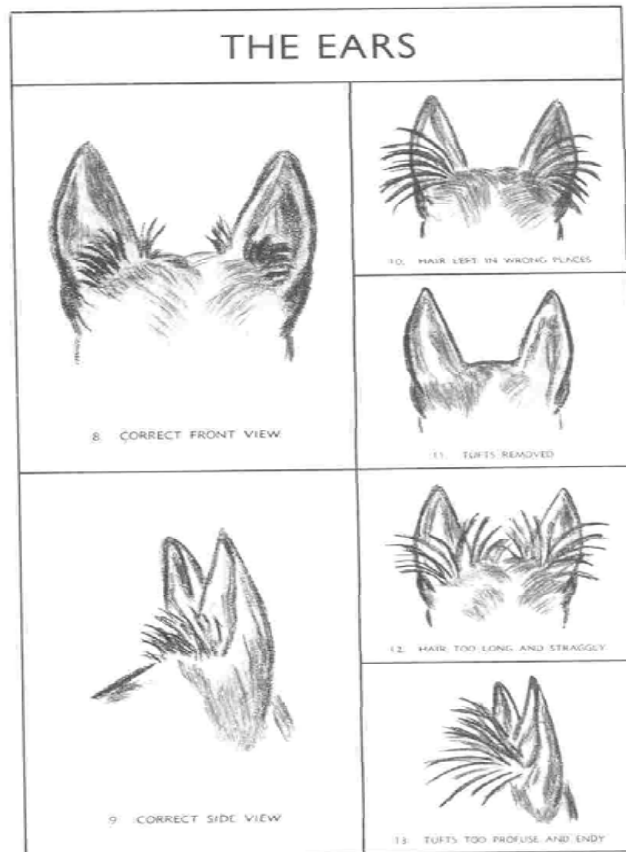
Tail: holding the tail straight up in left hand, use thinning /shears to remove all the hair on the underside of tail. {The side nearest the ground if the tail was pointing straight out behind the dog} Next with the dog facing away from you lower the tail and comb all hair to one side. Trim from tip to bum. Comb all the hair to the other side and repeat trim. The idea is to give the impression of a "fat carrot". To check and see if the front side of the tail needs any trimming hold the tail straight up and comb out.

General: The westie should appear compact and strong. When the tail is erect there shouldn't be furnishing bellowing out from the line running down his tail to his bum and continuing down the rear leg. The same applies in the front, the chest furnishings should be trimmed to give a straight front when viewed from the side - see red lines on picture. For a shorter body use a 5F/6mm or for longer trim a No 3/ 13mm. Westie's, which are being shown, should not be clipped but handstripped to retain correct coat texture.

This trim can also be used for a Cairn terrier or other short-legged terriers and crosses.

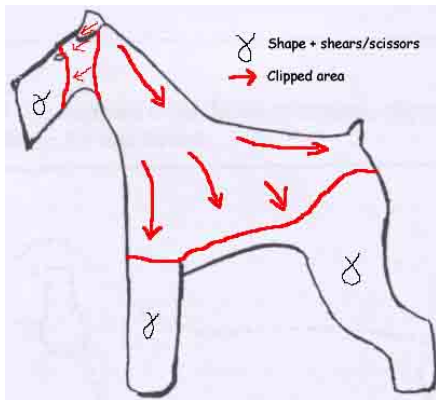
{It is understood that all pads/groin /anal area have been clipped and that all nails attended to and ears have been plucked and cleaned where necessary.}

Scottish Terrier Head {Scottie}



Long Legged Terrier

Body: Starting at the back of the skull, using a 5F blade clip with the hair down the



neck along the spine to the base of the tail. Continue with same blade down the sides of the neck to just above the elbow. Next continue down the sides of the ribcage to a line sloping slightly upwards from the front. Continuing along the body, clip down over the hip slightly. Turning the dog to face away from you clip down either side of bottom slightly to expose swirls/ rosettes. Using the body blade the tail is clipped on all sides to make a neat stump OR if undocked, the tail can be trimmed to form a flag / plume depending on tail furnishings. Turn the dog to face you and clip using body blade from the throat

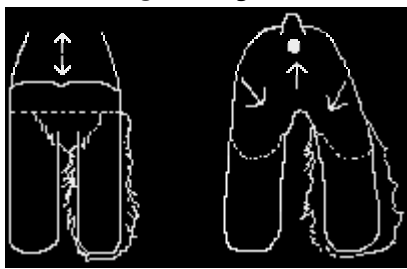
down to the breastbone.

Head: Ears are clipped on both sides with No 10 blade with the direction of the hair. Gently scissor around the edge of the ear to neaten. Using 7F blade {in reverse}, start clipping the head from back of skull forward to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch behind eyes. Clip from in front of the ear forward to the outside edge of eye. Continue clipping the side of the face in reverse. The beard is formed by a line linking the outside corner of the eye straight down to a point midway between the cheek mole/nodule and the corner of the mouth. Lift up the nose and clip up the throat to the nodule/mole under the chin. Using a thinning shears remove the hair at the stop between the two eyebrows forming an upside down "V". The eye-brows are combed forward {not to severe but in a semi-natural lie} Using either a scissors or thinning shears trim off out side edge of eyebrow level with edge of head/skull. Next using the nostril and the corner of the eye as your guide trim the eyebrow at a sharp angle, the innermost hair being the longest leaving a triangular shaped eyebrow Using a thinning shears shape the beard coming forward underneath and then diagonally from each side to remove untidy ends and tidy up. When finished the dogs head should resemble a rectangle when viewed from above.



Chest: the chest furnishing on a terrier should not resemble a "bib" or appear profuse, but should lie flat and neat. Trim down the chest furnishing with a thinning shears to lie flat and not sticking out when viewed from the side

Legs: Using a scissors trim around the bottom of each foot. Using thinning shears/scissors front legs are trimmed to appear like 2 straight strong columns. Hind legs are similar but are shaped to show natural angulation. Leg furnishings should hopefully be enough to enable nice chunky legs.



General Notes: For a shorter length on the body use a 7F or for longer trim a 4F. If the body coat is of coarse texture, a skip-toothed blade may be more suitable.

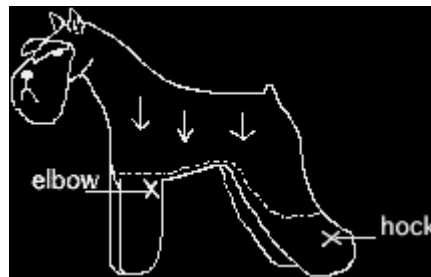
Terrier's, which are being shown, should not be clipped but hand stripped to retain correct coat texture and colour. This trim can be used for an Airedale, Welsh, Irish, Fox Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten. If using it on a Kerry Blue, a crest should be left on the back on the neck which is scissored in to blend with body

{It is understood that all pads/groin /anal area have been clipped and that all nails attended to and ears have been plucked and cleaned where necessary.}

Miniature Schnauzer

Body: Starting at the back of the skull using a 5F blade clip with the hair down the neck along the spine to the base of the tail

Continue with same blade down the sides of the neck to just above the elbow. Next continue down the sides of the ribcage to a line sloping slightly upwards from the front. Continuing along the body, clip down over the hip and down the rear of the back leg ending in a curving line approx inch above hock. The hair is left on the front



edge of the rear leg and from the hock down by clipping down the leg to the stifle then curving backwards towards the rear of the dog. Turning the dog to face away from you the triangle under the anus is clipped tight with either 7F or No 10. Using the same blade carefully clean away any stray tufts on the upper inside of the rear legs. Using the body blade the tail is clipped on all sides to make a neat stump OR if undocked the tail can be trimmed to form a flag / plume depending on tail furnishings. Turn the dog to face you and clip using body blade from the throat down to the breastbone.

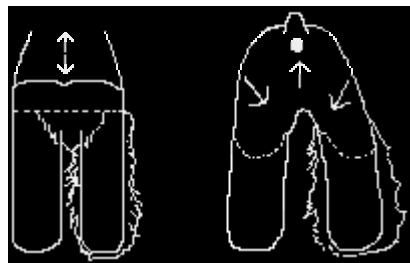
Head: Ears are clipped on both sides with No 10 blade with the direction of the hair. Gently scissor around the edge of the ear to neaten. Using 7F blade {in reverse}, start clipping the head from back of skull forward to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch behind eyes. Clip from in front of the ear forward to the outside edge of eye. Continue clipping the side of the face in reverse. The beard is formed by



a line going from the outside corner of the eye straight down to a point midway between the cheek mole/nodule and the corner of the mouth. Lift up the nose and clip up the throat to the nodule/mole under the chin. Using a thinning shears remove the hair at the stop between the two eyebrows forming an upside down "V". The eye-brows {quite often white hair} are combed forward {not to severe but in a semi-natural lie} Using either a scissors or thinning shears trim off out side edge of eyebrow level with edge of head/skull. Next using the opposite nostril and the corner of the eye as your guide trim the eyebrow at a sharp angle, the innermost hair being the longest leaving a triangular shaped eyebrow (ideally approximately one-half the length of the muzzle) When finished the eyebrows are to resemble a "visor shape". Using a thinning shears shape the beard coming forward underneath and then diagonally from each side to remove untidy ends and tidy up. When finished the Min Schnauzer head should resemble a rectangle when viewed from above.

Chest: the chest furnishing on a schnauzer should not resemble a "bib" or appear profuse, but should lie flat and neat. Trim down the chest furnishing with a thinning shears to lie flat and not sticking out when viewed from the side

Legs: Using a scissors trim around the bottom of each foot. Using thinning shears/scissors front legs are trimmed to appear like 2 straight strong columns. Hind legs are similar but are shaped to show natural angulation. Leg furnishings should hopefully be enough to enable nice chunky legs.



General Notes: usually grey/white {salt+pepper} but can be all black. Furnishings mat very easily if not combed well weekly. For a shorter length on the body use a 7F or for longer trim a 4F. If the body coat is of course texture, a skip-toothed blade may be more suited. Min Schnauzer's, which are being shown, should not be clipped but hand stripped to retain correct coat texture.

{It is understood that all pads/groin /anal area have been clipped and that all nails attended to and ears have been plucked and cleaned where necessary.}

Terrier Tips

Kerry Blue Head



Note crest on neck scissored to blend into body.

Hair hangs in "fall" over eyes.

Other breeds which have undivided eyebrows or "Fall"

Lakeland Terrier

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

Sealyham Terrier

Min Schnauzer eyebrows are large divided and "Visor shaped"

Other terriers such as Fox, Welsh, Irish, Airedale have small divided eyebrows.

Short legged terriers - A Scottie has long narrow divided eyebrows whereas westies and cairns have dish/round shaped head with no separate eyebrows

Terrier beards - use the three moles/nodules as markers for all terrier beards. Most terriers ears are clipped tight with No 10 blade to give a nice velvet feel. Edges are then neatened with a small scissors.

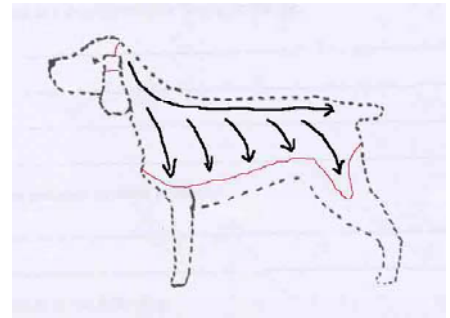


Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

Spaniel Trim

Body: Starting at the back of the skull using a 5F blade, clip with the hair down the neck along the spine to the base of the tail.

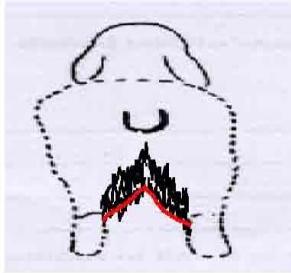
Continue with same blade down the sides of the neck to the elbow. Next continue down the sides of the ribcage to the widest point of the ribs. Continuing along the body, clip down over the hip and down the side of the back leg leaving



furnishing on the front and rear edges of the leg see red line on diagram.

Hind legs: Trim bottom of pantaloons to form upside down "V" shape. Furnishing should not fall below hock see picture. The back of the rear leg from the hock down is trimmed fairly tight using thinning shears or scissors. The feathering on the front of the upper hind leg gets blended in with the skirt.

Tail: Using the body blade the tail is clipped on all sides to make a neat stump OR if undocked the tail can be trimmed to form a flag / plume depending on tail furnishings. Turning the dog to face away from you clip down it's backside to expose the rosettes.



The pantaloons {furnishings/ featherings} fall from this point. Turn the dog to face you and clip using body blade from the throat down to the breastbone again furnishings fall down from this point.

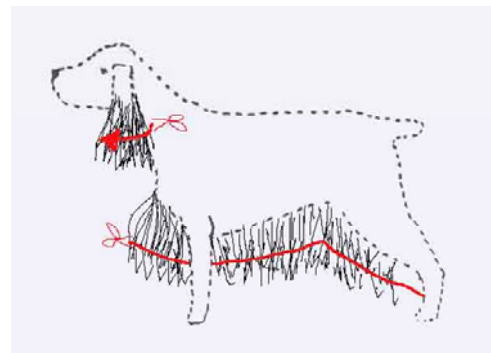
Frontlegs: The furnishing on the fore leg should hang from the back of the leg. The front and sides of the leg is taken tight by either stripping or trimming with thinning shears or clippers if required. Depending on the amount of hair present the feet can be clipped or trimmed with thinning shears or clippers. Ideally the foot should be trimmed nice and chunky. The nails and divisions between the toes should not be visible but pet trims often call for shorter feet. The feathering is then trimmed in an arc coming up from the foot to the elbow.

Head: the top of the head should be short and tidy. If trimming is required use either thinning shears or clippers. Using a 5F in reverse usually gives the desired effect {but not on CKC's}. The hair on the top 1/3 of the ears is often removed with either thinning shears or clippers so that when viewed from head on the ears lie flat against the head rather than sticking straight out. The bottoms of the ears are trimmed across {from back to front} to a length in balance with the rest of the dog.

Chest and Belly furnishing: These gets trimmed in a line rising slightly towards groin and blending into the feathering on the front of the rear leg {if present!}

Blending: A thinning shears is used to blend any visible step between short or clipped areas and longer or fuller furnishings.

General Notes: For a shorter length on the body use a 7F or for longer trim a 4F. Spaniels, which are being shown, should not be clipped but hand stripped to retain correct coat texture and colour. This trim can be used for CKC's, cockers, springers and all suitably coated dogs.



{It is understood that all pads/groin /anal area have been clipped and that all nails attended to and ears have been plucked and cleaned where necessary.}

Snap-on Combs for Clippers

Why Snap-on Combs?

Using Snap-on Combs

The following article is for general information only and not intended to serve as professional training nor replace professional training. We strongly advise professional training for every new groomer before they offer grooming services to pet owners. Based on our experience your charging fees for grooming services is legally interpreted that you are the expert in grooming, and not the pet owners you serve. Thereby you accept the risk of being responsible for the services you provide. You are responsible to interview every pet owner you serve to ensure that your services are not only aesthetic, but safe and appropriate for their pet. You are also responsible to disclose to each pet owner any and all risks your procedures may involve to their pet. Professional grooming requires professional training. [Click for training opportunities](#). We wrote the Pet Care Services Brochure and Pet Groomer's Report & Health Alert in the book [From Problems to Profits](#) to exemplify one example of the disclosure process for a professional groomer. Remember, every pet owner you serve is putting their faith and trust in you. Get the professional training required of a professional groomer.



Why Snap-on Combs?

There was a time not so long ago that groomers never used snap-on combs because they had not yet been invented. Once they landed on the scene many groomers adopted them quickly claiming they improved their efficiency. Yet there was another group of groomers who even unto this day don't use them favoring scissor and clipper only grooming.

From our experience snap-on comb attachments were indeed a great way to improve efficiency and overall productivity, and they were never meant to eliminate scissor finishing. Today, almost every groomer has a few sizes of snap-on combs. It's not unusual to find them useful every day. Anything that saves time and reduces hand fatigue should be important to all groomers alike as grooming has always been laborious work, and we must look to our tools and equipment to reduce wear and tear on our precious bodies.

While we may call them "snap-on combs" they may be referred to as blade guards, blade grips and blade attachments. There is not a standardized system used by manufacturers branding the various sizes of snap-on combs. Oster snap-on combs are numbered by the length of coat they leave (in inches). Non-Oster combs are often numbered in 6 common comb sizes, 1; 1 1/2; 2; 3; 4; and 5. Some manufacturers produce more than these 6 sizes usually increasing the length of coat left. Avoid using combs with sharp ends to avoid injuries.

Snap-on comb attachments are available from [grooming suppliers](#). Ensure that the snap-on combs you desire will fit on the clippers you use. Not all combs work on all clippers.

Using Snap-on Combs

Snap-on combs are attached to the blade end of a clipper over the blade. They are best used over a #30, #40 or #50 blades. It's possible to use them on #10 or #15, but performance is not as high.

Like all grooming techniques, it takes some practice to master snap-on combs. For the most part, they are used on coats after bathing, fluff-drying and final combing so that no matts are present. Snap-on combs do not go through matts.

Always go in the direction of coat growth. Your objective is to create as even a result as possible. Once done, use scissors to smooth any uneven spots.

Some purebred dogs being groomed into non-traditional styles can make great use of snap-on combs. For example, a full-coated Sheepdog can have its coat reduced to an inch, or two, (depending upon comb used) very quickly with snap-on comb. In fact, many other purebred full-coated dogs being given an even length coat reduction cut all over are candidates for snap-on comb grooming, followed by scissors to perfect any uneven spots.

Clean snap-on combs regularly with soap and water only. Remove any clipper oil or aerosol spray on combs before use.

Puppy Cuts/ Teddy Bear Trims

The terms "Puppy Cut" and "Teddy Bear Trim" are names given to trims of differing lengths that fall into the category that lies between a "shave off" and a "full coat".

This collection of trims can be very personal to the individual groomer. A customer used to a puppy trim by "groomer A" may get a shock when they change and ask for a puppy cut from "groomer B". Good communication between groomer and client is very important here to make sure no mis-understanding is about to happen. Puppy cuts are not just for puppies, but they usually have an element of making the dog look cute and cuddly which can be linked to puppies.

Things to take into consideration when choosing a cut are what the owner wants; whether this is possible (i.e. state of the dogs coat- matting); if some matting is present is the dog likely to tolerate its removal. Is the animal going to be comfortable with this clip at home until you are going to see him again? {e.g. I don't recommend subjecting the dog to lengthy dematting so that you can trim into a long puppy cut if the owners are either not going to maintain it themselves or bring it to you for maintenance within a reasonable time space, it just isn't fair on the dog}.

The following combinations is a list of various puppy cuts I make use of in the salon.

- ❑ Scissor the dog all over to required length
- ❑ Clip the body with an attachment comb + scissor full legs balanced with body
- ❑ Clip the body with No. 3 / 13mm blade + scissor full legs balanced with body
- ❑ Clip the body with No 4F / 9mm blade + scissor full legs balanced with body
- ❑ Clip the body with No 5F / 6mm blade + scissor full legs balanced with body
- ❑ Clip the body with No 7F / 3mm blade + scissor full legs balanced with body
- ❑ Clip the body + legs with No 3 / 13mm blade
- ❑ Clip the body + legs with No 4F / 9mm blade
- ❑ Clip the body with No 4F / 9mm blade + clip the legs with No3 / 13mm blade
- ❑ Clip the body with No 5F / 6mm blade + clip the legs with No3 / 13mm blade
- ❑ Clip the body with No 5F / 6mm blade + clip the legs with No 4F / 9mm blade

As you can see there is large variation in combinations of clipping and scissoring available for puppy cuts. Usually hair is left on and shaped on the head and tail. The most common breeds of dogs where puppy cuts are used would be shihtzu's, lasha apso's, old english sheepdogs and a whole range of cross breeds and mongrels. Again a huge amount of individual choice comes in to it all, do you leave short or long ears?? Some folks do square heads while others will always choose round shaped ones.

Rough guidelines for some popular breeds

West Highland Terrier {westie}/ Cairn Terrier /Yorkshire terrier

- ❑ westie clip/short legged terrier {various blades on back}
- ❑ clip same length all over
- ❑ left shaggy with some shaping on hips and around neck/head

Scottish Terrier

- ❑ short legged terrier clip and scotti head

Miniature Schnauzer

- ❑ schnauzer clip
- ❑ short all over

Golden Retrievers/ Setters/ Rough Collie /Samoyed/

Shetland sheepdog/ Border Collie/ Pekinese

- ❑ general tidy up
- ❑ clipping not to be recommended but if done - spaniel clip or shave

English Springer Spaniel/ English Cocker Spaniel/ Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

- ❑ spaniel clip
- ❑ all over clip
- ❑ genral tidy ^ body not clipped

Tibetan Terrier/Maltese Terrier/ Old English Sheepdog/ Shih-Tzu

- ❑ full coat
- ❑ all over clip
- ❑ puppy trim

Wire haired fox terrier/ Irish Terrier /Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier

- ❑ Long legged terrier clip with appropriate head
- ❑ Clip all over with appropriate head

Kerry Blue Terrier

- ❑ As above but leave crest on back of neck if poss { longer blade or scissor}

Poodle

- ❑ Clip body and scissor legs
- ❑ Clip all over with various length blades

Dachshund

- ❑ Wirehaired- terrier body, clip head leave eyebrows and beard on
- ❑ Long haired - general tidy up

STOP AND THINK.....

DOES IT NEED CLIPPING???!!!!

Is it a Flat coat? For example a cavalier king charles, or a red setter, maybe a young cocker spaniel or a border collie type

Does all the top coat lie close and flat with over long feathers and fluffy feet?

Maybe there are also only a handful of curly or wispy hairs around the shoulder area?

Don't reach for the clippers!!!!!! You could change that coat for the worst.

What about trying a 20 blade coat king used in the direction of the lie of the coat to clear out the dead undercoat?

Have a comb through with a Spratt's 76 comb or a wide toothed comb with an elastic band woven through it's teeth, this will take out an abundance of dead coat.

So there are some matting in the feathers can you nibble them out with a thinners

(use a coarse toothed one for this not your good finishing ones) Try to nibble them from the inside so as to leave a covering on the outside edge.

All the dead coat is gone now so bath and dry your subject.

When the coat is fully dry, take out your good thinners and get to work blending in that longish coat to lie more flat and natural looking. Remember it's natural looking not chiselled into shape. Use your thinners to tidy the top of the feet and trim in the featherings.

If it has a lot of very tight matting in the leg and belly feathers that wont budge with a brush well it may need to be removed with a clippers for safety but what about only clipping off the matting then blend in the top coat. If the top coat is lying flat why clip it?

Has it been neutered or spayed? Is there a fluffy over growth of blonde or light coloured hair? Again try the 20 blade coat king or card it with a stripping knife if sparse and fine. (use care when carding the skin can redden up if over done)

Watch the coat colour change back to the original

For a thicker coat like a retriever or a border collie type coat a 6 blade coat king or 18 blade wide Oster rake. You can use those wider coat kings when dog is soapy in the bath to shift dead hair easier.

Resist clipping a flat lying coat for as long as is possible. Even if an owner requests it is your responsibility as the professional to advise them that it will change the coat and it will make it woollier, fuzzier and thicker and they will end up with more hair there to fall off and gather under the kitchen chairs!!

It won't stop the hair shedding just make more of it.

Is it a Sparse Harsh Coat ie cairn terrier, a terrier type or a Glen of Immal what can you use here? A clippers will soften the coat and will change the colouring. You need to comb out the soft under coat first, slicker brush and regular comb will work best so also will a 6 blade coat king or 18 blade wide Oster rake. The coat kings will also remove the dead/blown top coat and leave the top coat at a shorter length. If it is a cairn terrier that you wish to style and it has a long thick under coat why not use a thinners to trim the back into a short legged terrier style?

**THINK WHAT TOOLS CAN I USE NOT WHAT
CLIPPER BLADE WILL I USE.**

Some examples Breeds that should not normally be trimmed with clippers

In saying that if the need arises due to severe neglect or for medical reasons they can be clipped but resulting coat growth may be more "profuse" and "fleecy"

- Rough Collie
 - Sheltie {Shetland sheepdog}
 - Border collie
 - Pomeranian
- All the spitz varieties, Samoyed being the most popular others include - shiba inu, Jap spitz, elkhound, keeshound
 - Retrievers - {e.g. Golden, flatcoat}
 - Setters - {Red, Red+White, Gordon, English }
 - Tibetan spaniel
 - Long haired dachshund
 - German Shepard / Alsatian
 - Newfoundland
 - St Bernard
 - Pekinese

Breeds that would be handstripped for show {some examples}

This list just gives some examples of breeds that if being shown would require the coat to be handstripped to retain proper texture & colour but when kept as pets they are often kept neat & tidy by various tools or in clipped trim.

- West Highland White terrier {westie}
 - Scottish terrier
 - Cairn terrier
- Schnauzers { 3 sizes miniature, standard, giant}
 - Wire haired daxi
 - Irish terrier
 - Fox terrier
 - Welsh terrier
 - Lakeland terrier
 - Border terrier
- Parson "Jack Russell" terrier
- Various spaniels {including Cocker, Springer ,Clumber, Field, Sussex }
 - Setters {all kinds}
 - Airedale terrier
 - Sealyham terrier
 - Dandie Dinmont

TERRIER Eyebrows



Undivided
eyebrow -
"Fall"
Kerry Blue
Sealy
Soft Coated-
Wheaten
Lakeland



Long narrow
divided eyebrows-
scottie



No separate
eyebrows -westie
cairn



Chunky divided
"Visor-shaped"
Eyebrows -
Schnauzer



Small tri-angular
divided eyebrows-
Fox
Irish
Welsh
Airedale



Well folks...

I have never been a great believer in magic lotions and potions !!

We would all love to think there is a magic spell that makes hard labour easy peasy well you will be thrilled to know that there is and I've discovered how to make my grooming day easier. Over the last while some of us have heard other groomers from outside Ireland speak of putting dogs straight into the bath and dematting afterwards. When I first heard of this I tried it and failed miserably and spend the whole day dematting a shit-tzu what I thought was going to be easy !! Having had my fingers well and truly burnt I have been reluctant to try these so called "miracle short cuts".

Recently on a worldwide groomers egrouop {message board} there was talk of "leave in" silicone conditioners that helped with dematting. It then transpired that horse products are often similar if not the same as dog ones. So I quizzed a few of the members about how they used it etc. Most of the replies related to people who used it and then table dried and they found it wonderful. Fair enough I thought but having fallen in love with last years miracle, the drying cabinet there was no way I had the time or inclination to start table drying everything. But one of the replies mentioned that it was only in the last part of the drying process that the mats came out so therefore using a cabinet dryer shouldn't be a problem. So anyway one day I jumped two feet in and tried itWOW I tried it on a westie that comes in every 2 months. Every second visit he gets shaved body and legs, every other time he comes in, he gets a westie clip but by the following time he has that small tight matting that will eventually brush out but I personally think it is unfair to put him through it when it could all be averted by the odd brush at home !

As I was saying WOW..... I did his prebath { nails,ears, etc } brushed out his head and "Rough-clipped" the body with 5F then I put him into the bath {furnishings not brushed at all !!} I washed and rinsed and blasted as per usual. Then I sprayed my magic potion on to the furnishings and blasted again – the 2nd blasting is to disperse the stuff through the coat not blast it out of the coat. Then into the drying cabinet till ¾ dry when I took him out Well slap me with a wet kipper and call me George !! those horrible tight mats all just brushed out easy peasy !! Since then I have used it on just about everything from cockers to bichons, shit-tzu's etc etc The results tend to be more dramatic on the silky coats but I personally find it great on just about anything. I recently had an 9mth westie from hell that was fairly matted { you know the usual " of course we groom him he gets washed every week..... " } I thought { and prepared the owner for } I would have to clip his skirt and legs off but he went home in a lovely little westie clip..... I don't use it on the dogs head as you don't want silicone in a dogs eyes. Good as it is the solid pelts that come to get shaved still get shaved as that is what is required and what is wanted but the in between ones are now made a bit easier to deal with. So have a play around yourself and see what you think.

"All bow down and sing praise to the horse conditioner!! "

Jenny Hale "Scruffy Pups"

Now before any one starts giving out this article is a re-run. Reason being is Convital the magic potion has stopped being produced aaagh I hear you scream
But help is nigh...."The Stuff" conditioning spray is the same.

"The stuff is a unique hair conditioner with an amazing, dematting formula. Its hypoallergenic formula conditions and protects coat while removing and preventing tangles. This incredible solution repels dirt,dust and urine to keep pets coat longer. Use the stuff on wet or dry coats to facilitate it brushing and dematting. For professional groomers and exhibitors Prof tip: spray a very fine mist over poodle or bichon coats when scissoring, this makes the comb slide effortlessly though the hair and gives greater contrast, allowing the groomer to see the outline to be scissored more clearly."

It is sold by Transgroom { www.transgroom.com having sale at present !! } or Castlelack Canine Products in Cork who are the Irish agents for transgroom

Bandaging canine foot



On the underneath of
of the foot
use cotton wool to pad
well between the main
pad and the toe pads



And on the top of the
foot
use cotton wool to pad
well between the toes



use the 1st piece of
bandage to hold the
padding's in place

Then start working up
the leg overlapping the
bandage 1/2 way
across the previous piece



Trim with scissors
when finished



Materials needed for bandaging canine foot

Cohesive Bandage sometimes known as vet wrap

Muzzle if required



Cotton wool

Scissors

Antiseptic cream

Melolin Wound Dressing pad

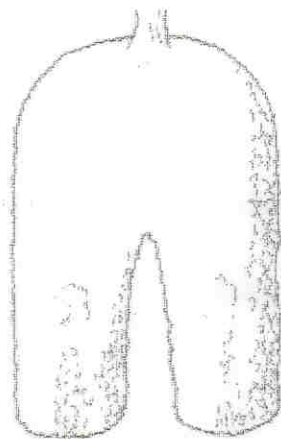
Antiseptic

Bandaging Canine foot

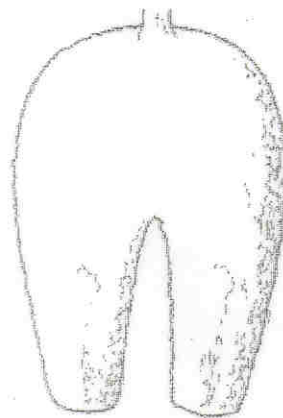
Key Points :

- 🐾 1st Aid only – not treating the wound- preserving situation
- 🐾 Clip hair & clean wound if bleeding not too bad
- 🐾 Pad well, between toes & pads not forgetting dewclaw
- 🐾 Apply melolin pad to stop bandage sticking to wound
- 🐾 Apply co-hesive bandage carefully making sure you unroll the bandage before wrapping round dogs leg to avoid to tight
- 🐾 Explain to vet & owner what has happened & what steps you have done
- 🐾 Don't give dog any food or water as he may need a sedative in the vets

From behind, the back legs should be slightly curved at the top and a straight line down to the foot. (a common mistake is taking too much off the bottoms of the leg).



Correct



Too much off bottom

Follow the natural shape of the leg. Trim from just below the 'bottom' slightly curving to the top of the hock.

Between the back legs scissor straight.

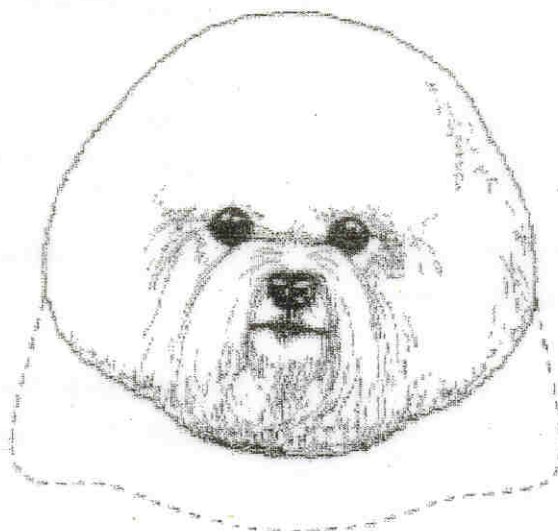
Again follow the natural shape of the leg and scissor down the stifle (not too much).

The head - remove the hair between the eyes over lapping the vision.

Scissor the fringe, slightly curving out, up and over the top.

Slightly trim over the top of the head creating a semicircle. (do not separate the ears from the head).

The bottom line can be trimmed to preference.



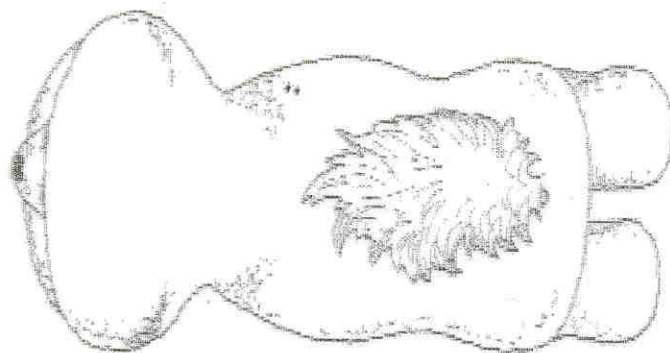
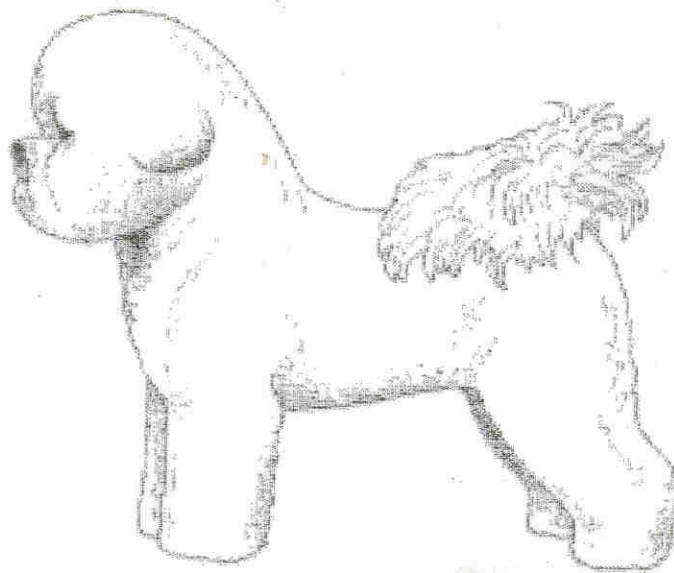
Finishing - comb through the coat and repeat to achieve a neat finish.

- Tail is left natural.

BICHON FRISE

Trimming Guide By Zoduff

The Bichon must look in balance.



Begin by scissoring the basic shape. Start from the tail and scissor up towards the withers, this should be slightly raised not straight.

The body needs to be slightly curved around the ribs, with care not to create too much of a waist line.

Scissor the sides of the neck, creating a look of a wide horse's neck. The front of the neck needs to be short, curve around the chest and the front of the shoulder. (the Bichon needs to have a prominent chest).

The front legs are a cylinder, (same width at bottom as top). Don't be tempted to scissor too much out at the elbow, just tidy.

Kennel Cough

It all started with a phone call ... doesn't it always !!. Last year a little dog died leaving a huge void in the family's lives. So when I got a call from one of the family members saying that he had found a new dog, which was just perfect for them, I was delighted for them. A little male westie needed a home. His wife would love the little man once he had a good scrub-a-dub and that's where I come in. So 20 minutes later he arrived from the pound and later that day he went home all squeaky clean.

Another phone call that evening explaining how mum-in-law was on crutches and how would I be fixed for babysitting until mum was better. Well to cut a long story short the little chap spent the days with me for 1 week until things were sorted at home. In all he was with me for 5 days but the long term implications still hang over me.

Although showing no signs of a cough, he was carrying the kennel cough virus, which he passed on to dogs that I had in for grooming on those fateful days. On average 3 out of 5 dogs developed and needed veterinary treatment for Kennel Cough. A weekly customer unknowingly brought it back in the following week and more dogs became infected. Kennel cough can develop 3 – 10 days after exposure and range from a tickly throat to a high temperature and a very debilitating cough, which can lead to permanent damage. Clients often describe the animal as sounding like they've something stuck in their throat and they often bring up a small amount of white froth.

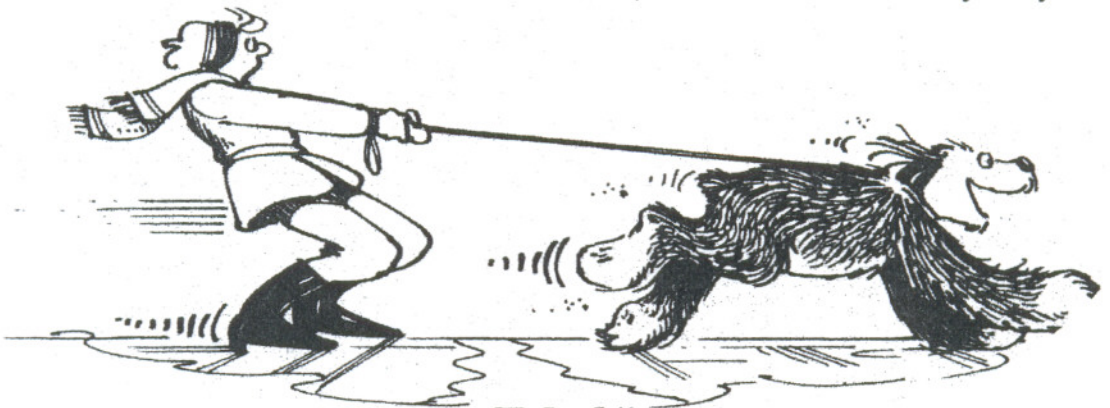
So What can you do ??

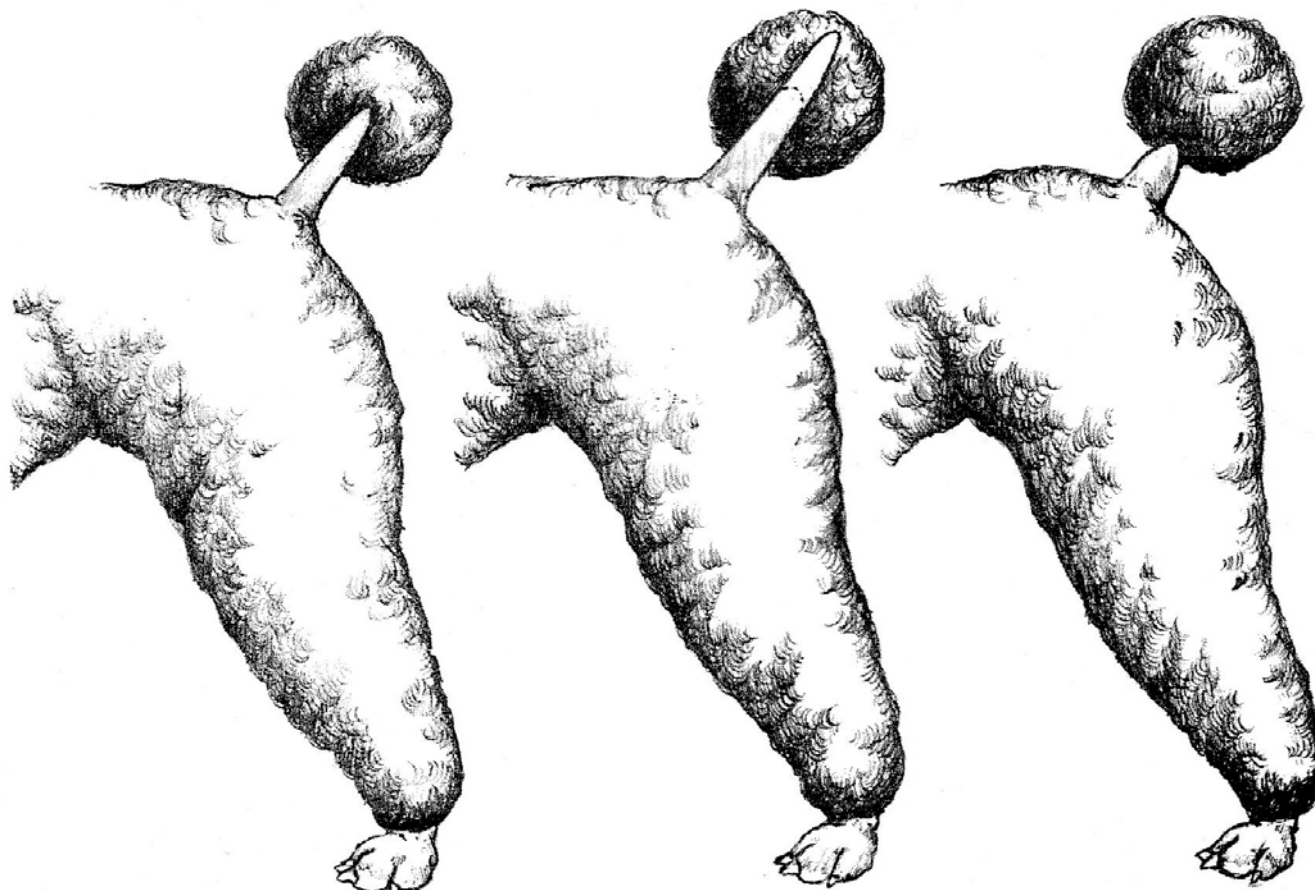
Well, Kennel Cough can be caught while just walking your dog in the street, not unlike the way humans catch the common cold or the flu but as a salon owner I feel responsible for the dogs that caught it on my premises. In all 15 dogs { that I have know of } caught it including one that was only in the place 15 minutes. I don't think I lost any clients but for 2 weeks after their recovery they couldn't come to the salon. Fine if the doggies were once or twice a year jobs but they were regulars. Two westies I do weekly didn't get the all clear from their vet for 2 months due to complications. When it comes down to nuts and bolts I reckon I lost £350- £400 worth of business. But no value can be put on the fact that those doggies got ill as a result of a visit to my salon.

After consultation with my vet, I now have a blanket rule that any dog out of kennels or any other multi dog situation needs to wait 2 weeks before coming to the salon even if they had the kennel cough vaccine. This new tough rule hasn't gone down well with all my clients but I never want a rerun of that nightmare. Most people do understand when it is explained, especially as it is for their benefit. Another Dublin groomer had to shut her premises for a short time to clear it of the virus.

SO BEWARE.... ! Dogs do not have to cough to have Kennel Cough.

By Jenny Hale





Tail docked correctly

Tail too long

Tail too short

Diagram 3. Tail docking

Ideally if a poodle tail is docked to the correct length the tip of it should be positioned in the middle of the pom.
The groomer should adapt the positioning of the pom on the tail to mask in correct docking

Business Details

- ❑ **Register business name-** registering your business name is very worthwhile. It does not stop some one using the same name but in a legal challenge the person to whom the name is registered will be allowed to continue to use it.
Contact: Company Registration Office
Parnell House
14 Parnell Square Dublin 1
01 8045200 / 01 8045201
- ❑ **Planning permission or /and change of usage** -contact your local county council look for 'The Development Plan' especially if considering setting up in a housing estate or built up area you are looking for 'housing estate policies' where they will mention whether commercial outlets will be encouraged or not.
- ❑ **Advertising-** You are entitled to a free entry in the Golden Pages and Phone Book under your business name. This would be the basic line layout ie. Name, Address and number. Be careful if considering putting out flyers, some councils or town councils have litter byelaws prohibiting leaflet drops in public areas. Dropping them through letterboxes is ok.
- ❑ **Vat-** vat is different to income tax. When your annual turnover reaches a certain level you are expected to register for vat. At present this ceiling is €35,000 as of March 1st 2007. It may sound a lot but remember this is turnover not profit and when it is broken down into a weekly amount it is not that much. This means you must add a vat charge {21%} onto your grooming fees which you then pay to the government every 2 months. You are also able to claim back vat paid on business purchases. Keep an eye on www.revenue.ie website for updated figures.
- ❑ **Money Matters-** you need to use an account separate to that of your personal account. Whether you open a bank , building society or a credit union account to conduct your business monies through one is needed. Also a separate credit card is advised.
- ❑ **Income Tax and Pay Related Social Insurance {PRSI}-** Register as self-employed with Revenue {www.revenue.ie} - now divided into regional areas. Check the green pages in your local phone book for details. You can opt to pay a large yearly tax bill or set up a direct debit through your bank, which pays a monthly figure chosen by you. Any shortfall or overpayment at the end of the tax year will be dealt with accordingly.

Business Details

- ❑ **Accounts** - keep detailed accounts of all money coming in and going out. The services of a trusted accountant can be most helpful in submitting your yearly accounts to the revenue office to assess your tax liability.
- ❑ **Pricing**- this can be very difficult to do fairly. In general prices should be based on the time involved. This is formulated from the type of dog - the behaviour of the individual dog, the condition of the coat {i.e. knot free or badly matted} and what the owner wants done. What you have to bear in mind, when working out the time involved, is that when you start grooming you will be slower and less efficient with your time but that should not be carried over into the price you are charging. In general people are prepared to pay a fair price for good quality work, but if you are only half doing a job you have no right to charge full price. Checking out local prices can be of help but bare in mind some people are over charging for bad work and some people are not charging enough for good quality work. Welcome to the pricing minefield !
- ❑ **Handling Cheques**- Be aware that it is up to you to ask for the cheque guarantee card and you should personally write the card number on the reverse of the cheque. If you do, the bank must honour the cheque, even if the cheque book owner calls the bank to cancel the cheque. Also you should check the limit that will be honoured by the cheque card. If your charge is over this amount then you have a right to ask for two cheques, again the bank will only guarantee up to the amount shown on the card.
- ❑ **Forged Notes**- This is becoming a problem, often we don't check each note to see if it is genuine or not. If you have an UV sterilizer and are suspicious of a note, pop it into the sterilizer and look for the ' Stars' to shine up. Another and slightly easier way is to run your finger nail over the rows of bars on the note, just left of the large number displayed at the top right. These should be raised even on a worn note. You can refuse to take a suspect note or what would probably be easier is to take it, make note of the offending person and report it to the Garda.
- ❑ **Insurance** - it is recommended that you have sufficient insurance both income and public liability. At present insurance for professional negligence {i.e. to cover a dog being injured or hurt while in your care} is not available to groomers in Ireland - hopefully this will change! Various personal accident and income protection policies are available. You need to research which one caters best for your personal requirements. Public liability insurance covers you if one of your customers has an accident {i.e. slips or trips} on your premises. It is regarded as the most important of insurances to have but yet it is the one of least value to you as a groomer working on animals but as a business it is a necessity. Few policy's are available but you could start by talking to Lynam Insurance based in Dublin 01 4752225.