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## Tools for Smooth-Coated Dogs

Smooth-Coated breeds such as Whippet, Dalmatian, and Greyhound are easy “wash-and-wear” breeds.

Their grooming needs are simple:

- Rubber brush for daily brushing
- Hound glove and/or chamois cloth to smooth and gloss their coat after drying
- Nail clippers appropriate to the size of the dog
- Ear powder for gripping hair and keeping ear canal dry
- Forceps (or tweezers) and cotton balls for pulling hair from ears

If you show your dog, a silk handkerchief is sometimes used to add shine and gloss to the coat.



## Tools for Curly-Coated Dogs

Curly-Coated breeds such as Poodle, Bichon Frise, Portuguese Water Dog, or Curly-coated Retriever will require:

- Pin brush for daily grooming
- Slicker brush to release dirt and loose hair
- Steel comb to break up small mats
- De-matting tool – de-matting rakes and combs help remove dead undercoat quickly and efficiently and break up mats without affecting coat length
- Thinning shears for trimming around eyes and ears
- Scissors for trimming body and leg coat
- Nail clippers appropriate to the size of the dog
- Ear powder for gripping hair and keeping ear canal dry
- Forceps (or tweezers) and cotton balls for pulling hair from ears
- Electric clipper with blades and combs if desired



For daily grooming, use a pin brush to keep the coat from matting and to make it look fluffy. A slicker brush should be used when a pin brush will not suffice. It will enable you to brush a mat that is beginning to form. A wide-toothed steel comb will help you work out mats.

Careful use of thinning shears will keep the hair out of the eyes. This will minimize eye irritation.

Ear powder on a cotton ball used with forceps will aid in removal of excess ear hair. This keeps the ears from getting bacteria and infections.

Use of the de-matting tool should be left to those who are confident in its use. It is great for breaking up serious mats, but is very sharp. If your dog is wiggly and you have no grooming table, you should have the help of a professional groomer.

## Tools for Wire-Coated Dogs and Medium-Length Coated Dogs

Wire-coated dogs such as Wire Fox Terrier, Wire Dachshund, Airedale Terrier, Schnauzers of all sizes and several other terriers and medium coated dogs such as Golden Retriever, Australian Shepherd, Cairn Terrier, Alaskan Husky, and Bernese Mountain Dog have very similar needs:

- Pin brush for daily grooming
- Slicker brush to release dirt and loose hair
- Shedding blade helps with ridding of dead coat (esp. for large breeds)
- Steel comb to break up small mats
- Stripping comb to thin out the hair (these actually cut and pull the hair out) – basically for use with wire-coated dogs
- Thinning shears for around the eyes
- Forceps (or tweezers) and cotton balls for pulling hair from ears
- Ear powder for gripping hair and keeping ear canal dry
- Nail clippers appropriate to the size of the dog



## Tools for Long-Haired Dogs

Longhaired breeds such as Afghan Hound, Shih Tzu, Lhasa Apso, Yorkshire Terrier, Irish Setter, and English Springer Spaniel need:

- Pin brush for daily grooming
- Slicker brush to release dirt and loose hair
- Steel comb to break up small mats
- De-matting tool - – de-matting rakes and combs help remove dead undercoat quickly and efficiently and break up mats without affecting coat length
- Thinning shears for around the eyes
- Nail clippers appropriate to the size of the dog
- Ear powder for gripping hair and keeping ear canal dry
- Forceps (or tweezers) and cotton balls for pulling hair from ears
- Nail clippers appropriate to the size of the dog





## Tools for Double-Coated Dogs

Double-coatedness can occur in wired-coated, long-haired, medium-haired, and curly-coated dogs. The undercoat usually needs special attention. The worst thing you can do is to bathe these dogs too often.

Bathing too frequently will destroy the natural oils in their coats and cause them to mat more easily. It can also give them many types of skin problems. However, you should not forget to comb or brush these dogs at least twice a week.



Specialized tools you may want for double-coated dogs are:

- Shedding blade to help with ridding their coat of dead hair (esp. for large breeds)
- Undercoat rake to aid in thinning the undercoat and in pulling out loose hair



## Pictorial Glossary of Grooming Tools

**Pin Brush** – This brush is commonly used for regular brushing of long-coated large dogs. These come in large and small sizes and can be purchased in superstores and drugstores as well as pet stores since they are basically the same as the pin brush a person would use.



**Boar's Bristle Brush** – This brush works great for removing the undercoat of long-coated breeds and also helps in getting rid of mats in the undercoat. Although they can be purchased in a variety of stores, the ones designed for dogs work best.



**Combination brushes** – Many people prefer a brush that is a pin brush on one side and a bristle brush on the other side. They allow you to use the same tool for short-haired areas of a long coated dog that you use for the longer areas. However, the passive side may tangle in the fur of a long-coated dog while you are using the other side of the brush.

**Bristle Brushes (soft, medium, and stiff)** – These brushes are used on different short-coated breeds for regular brushing.



**Slicker Brush** – These brushes are used primarily to release dirt and to pull loose hair from the dog's coat. They are also used for breaking up mats that are forming and to separate the hair.

They help spread the oils through the coat, making it shiny and healthy. They come in various shapes



and sizes and a variety of stiffnesses. Curved backs help you reach various parts of the dog. Triangular ones help around the ears and face.

**Rubber Brush** – This brush is designed for use on short-coated breeds.



**Steel Comb** – The best comb is a regulation-size steel comb with both medium and fine teeth. This comb will do a good job on most breeds. There are various sizes of combs.

**Nail Clipper** – The following are three types of nail clippers that are suitable for small, medium, and large breeds.



The scissors-type is recommended for small dogs.

The guillotine-type is used on medium-sized dogs.

And finally, the heavy duty, pliers-type, is best used for large breeds with strong, hard nails.



**Styptic Powder** – Styptic pads or powder is useful for stopping bleeding if toenails are cut too short (into the quick).



**Ear Cleaners** – Ear cleaners are of two types, solutions or powders. Your dog's Vet will help you choose the right cleaner for your pet.

**Ear Wipes** – Eye wipes are soft wet medicated tissues that easily clean your dog’s eyes. It smoothly brings out collected dirt around the dog’s eyes and leaves a cooling effect.



**Thinning Shears** – These are good to use around the eyes. They can be used on the feet to give a natural clipped appearance as opposed to a sharply cut appearance.



**Scissors** – These types of scissors come in both large and small sizes, and some are designed for left-handed people.

**Curved Shears** – This tool is used by some groomers to help achieve a rounded effect on top-knots and “pom-poms.” They are very useful to trim the hair on the bottoms and around the sides of the feet of most dogs.



**Forceps or Tweezers and Cotton Balls and Medicated Ear Powder (or Boric Acid Powder) –**

This is standard equipment for cleaning dogs’ ears and keeping them from getting bacterial infections.

**Shedding Blade** - The shedding blade is used on dogs with excessive shedding. This is best used on a short- to medium-haired dog, especially double-coated dogs, as it removes undercoat or seasonally shedding coat.



**Stripping Knives** - The fine stripping knife is used on the head, ears, and other sensitive areas. The coarse stripping knife is used on the other parts of the body. A stripping knife plucks the hair, resulting in a thinner, smoother, more natural-looking coat.



**Stripping Combs (Mars Combs)** – The stripping comb thins the coat by cutting it. This results in a thinner, less dense coat which is more natural-looking.

**De-Matting Comb or Tool** – This heavy comb has wide-set, very sharp teeth. A de-matting comb will help in getting rid of mats from the coats of long-haired breeds. This is to be used with extreme caution as it is very sharp. If the dog is wiggly or the person is unsure of the use of the tool, get help from a professional groomer.



**Chamois cloth** – This cloth is used for polishing the coats of shorthaired dogs.



**Hound Glove** – The hound glove or mitt is used on the coats of various shorthaired dogs in the hound family. The rubber nubs on these help pull out dead coat.



**Silk Handkerchief** – This is mainly used for polishing the coats of white short-haired breeds.



**Nail File** – A nail file is often used after cutting the dog’s toenails to take off the rough edges.



**Q-Tip** – Q-Tips are highly useful for cleaning your dog’s ears. Use the Q-Tip to bring out the accumulated dirt inside your dog’s ears like we do for humans.

## Grooming Support Equipment



**Grooming table** – An average size grooming table of 24” x 36” is often a folding type which can also be easily stored or transported.

This table is 30" high and has ribbed rubber matting on the top. This table can be used for grooming various breed sizes.

**Grooming post and loop** – The ideal grooming post should be one that is portable and can easily be attached to any size table. The loop is placed around the dog's neck to ensure his safety. (Pictured with grooming table)

Grooming tables come in a variety of sizes for the various sizes of dogs. However, any surface (such as a table, counter or washer or dryer top) can be used. Cover the surface with a rubber mat.

A bath mat with little suction cups on the bottom works well. Attach a hook above it and use your dog's leash to hold him still while you work.

**Hand-Held Hairdryer** – This is an absolute necessity for drying the coat of your dog. Hair dryers can be purchased from all types of stores and most people already have one to dry their own hair. If your dog is frightened by the hair dryer, there are “quiet dryers” available.



**Cage Dryer** – This type of dryer is designed to fit on cages so that the dog may be dried inside the cage

**Floor Dryer** – This is a type of dryer that is generally used for fluff drying. Because of the long arm on this dryer it can be used to direct the air on the coat and dry the hair.

**High-speed Floor Dryer** – This dryer is the same as the other floor dryers except that it has a high-speed motor attached for fluff drying long-coated breeds such as the Standard Poodle, Old English Sheepdog, and Afghan. (see floor dryer).



**Duplex dresser** – A stripping tool used on most Terriers and other breeds. This is a useful tool for the intermediate to professional groomer. It comes with replacement razor blades.



**Small Animal Clipper** – Small animal clippers are made by several companies. There are corded electric clippers and cordless with rechargeable batteries.

If you are just starting out, a one-piece clipper with snap-on blades such as the Oster A2 Model will be easiest to use and operate. The next step would be one with interchangeable heads such as the Oster A5 Model.

**Clipper Blades** – These blades are designed for both the A5 and the A2 model clippers. Each blade is numbered. The higher the number, the more hair it removes. Blades that are most desirable include #7, #10 and #15.



**Snap-on Comb** – This is a favorite among "fast job groomers." If slipped over a #15 blade, it will thus uniformly leave 5/8 inches of hair wherever used. This type of comb is available in six different sizes.



**Spray Lube for electric clippers** – This spray product is used to cool and lubricate the blades. Using the spray lube is necessary when clipping in order to prevent clipper burns.



## 12 Tips to Increase Safety and Minimize Mess

Taking safety measures while grooming your dog is extremely important. And also, while you are at it, you should also see to it that after each grooming session, you don't end up turning the whole house upside down and making a complete mess of your surroundings.

**Pointed below are 12 essential tips to help you out:**

1. Gather all grooming tools and necessities before getting the dog.
2. Wear the same "grooming clothes" each time you groom your dog.
3. Wear a smock or an apron to help keep hair off of you when grooming – and to keep you drier while bathing and drying your dog.
4. Use bath mats in the tub and on the grooming surface to help your dog feel secure and to keep him from slipping and getting hurt.
5. Use restraints on your dog while bathing and grooming.
6. Never use a hair dryer while the dog is in water; always plug hair dryers into outlets that are GFCI grounded.
7. Use absorbent cotton towels for drying your dog or placing on the bottom of the dog's crate. A roll of paper towels is helpful for spills.
8. Do both bathing and grooming of your dog in the same room if possible – preferably with the door closed.
9. Always have a lined trash can handy for disposing of used cotton balls, hair, and other trash.
10. Vacuum entire area immediately after grooming.
11. Use a disinfectant/deodorant to clean all surfaces in the room after bathing and grooming.
12. Towels and grooming clothes should be machine washed in hot water and dried in a dryer to remove hair.