

Grooming Seminar Notes

RECOMMENDED GROOMING TOOLS:

- **Brushes** – slicker and pin
- **Combs and Rakes** – coarse tooth comb (long teeth and nice if one end is finer toothed), long tooth dematting rake
- **Scissors** – 7 or 8” straight scissors and/or curved. Smaller rounded tip scissors
- **Thinning Shear** – 42 or 46 teeth (either double or single teeth edge) – higher tooth count is preferable for a natural blend and smoother finish look
- **Nail Trimmers** – Guillotine or scissor style (my preference), Grinders (Oster, Andis, Dremmel)
- **Heavy Duty Blow Dryer** – Optional, but worth the expense. You will wonder how you lived without it! Circuiteer and the K9 II or III are recommended. Make sure to get one that blows cold air. Never use a human hair dryer or one that produces heat on your Newf.
- **Electric Clippers** – Optional, but nice for long spayed girl, “yak” coat or for the oldies. Invest in a good quality Oster or Andis.

GROOMING:

Benefits of regular grooming:

- Reduces matting
- Leaves coat shiny/healthy
- Removes dead undercoat thus reducing chances for hot spots to form
- Can see skin and catch any skin issues early
- Regular brushing helps to build a bond between dog/owner.
- Do a little each day or every few days while watching tv or relaxing.

How to brush/comb:

- Line comb/brushing – Start at rear end and work forwards – one side and then the other. Start at feet and work up. Make a horizontal part in coat and comb out removing hair/mats. Work upwards and grab another section of hair/repeat process
- For undercoat shedding – use shedding rake to remove loose undercoat
- Mat removal – use dematting rake, scissors (work through mat vertically blades pointed away from skin. Alternately use thinners to make a few quick cuts in mat (keep fingers between skin and scissors/thinner blades). Use long coarse comb to work it apart. Can use mat detangler too. Cowboy Magic (horse product) or Equate detangler for babies (Wal-Mart pharmacy baby section) are good products. Baby powder made from cornstarch works well too.
- Continue to line comb until your coarse comb slides through all the coat easily.
- Pay special attention to under the ears, armpits, underneath between rear legs, pants area underneath and either side of tail. These areas prone to matting.

Ear cleaning:

- Regular cleaning of waxy build up helps reduce the incidence of ear infections.
- Can use witch hazel (my favorite), 50/50 mix organic apple cider vinegar/purified water, hydrogen peroxide or a premade over the counter product such as Zymox. Some OTC preparations contain alcohol. Avoid if dog has active ear infection as the alcohol will be irritating.
- Baby wipes with aloe and without alcohol are great for regular washing of inner ear flap.
- Put a little solution in the ear canal and massage the cartilage at the base of ear for a few seconds. Will hear a squishy sound. Let dog shake head. Use cotton balls – not swabs to clean out the gunk. NEVER put cotton balls or q-tips down into your dogs ear canal. Can damage the ear drum.

Nail Trimming:

- Take off just the tips, stop when the quick (black spot in middle of nail) appears. Don't forget the dew claws!

- If the quick is nipped and bleeds – Use styptic powder, cornstarch or flour. Immerse end of nail in the powder to stem the bleed.
- For dogs who resist trimming, trim a tip and then treat. Repeat with each nail. Peanut butter works well as it distracts while doing the next nail.
- Grinders are great. Only use for a few seconds at a time as they heat up and the nail will too.

Teeth cleaning:

- Using a doggy toothbrush or wet wash cloth wrapped around your finger, and dog toothpaste (never human!), brush your dog's canines and molars.
- To really get them pearly white, offer crunchy (not soft) treats and offer raw meaty bones. Marrow bones (long, straight filled with marrow) and knuckle bones are wonderful. Offer them raw with some meat on them. NEVER smoked or cooked! Allow them to scrape the meat off and lick out the marrow. For marrow bones, discard when they start biting pieces of bone off. For knuckles, discard when the bone becomes small enough to become a choking hazard.
- Rawhides and greenies are not recommended. Both can become choking hazards and cause internal blockage. Rawhides made outside of the USA contain arsenic.

BATHING:

- Make sure dog is thoroughly brushed/combed out before bathing and loose undercoat is removed. Small mats and loose undercoat turn into BIG mats when they become wet.
- Use a good quality dog shampoo or baby shampoo. Dilute in a bucket with water or in a 32 ounce empty dish liquid soap container.
- Always dilute the soap, never use full strength.
- Pre-wet dog and then squirt the soap/water mixture onto the coat. Work in a section at a time.
- Avoid getting soap in ears and eyes. Use a warm water wash cloth to clean face/ears.
- Rinse with a hose or hose end sprayer. Rinse, rinse, rinse, rinse, rinse, rinse. When you are done, rinse again. Make sure every trace of soap is gone as it can lead to itchiness and a dandruff look.
- Towel dry to remove excess water. Always pat and squeeze – never rub, it breaks the hair!
- Blow dry with cool forced air dog dryer or a shop vac on blow.
- If your dog enjoys his crate, line the bottom with big, thick towels, put him in it. Place a floor box fan against the crate side and turn it on. It will help to speed drying time.

FINAL GROOM/TRIM

- When thoroughly dry, run coarse comb through coat. Remove any small mats.

TRIMMING

- Practice makes perfect!
- As a general rule, always cut in the direction of hair growth.
- Take little cuts and brush in between cuts to see the result. You can always take more cuts, but you can't put it back on!
- Should you make a mistake, remember the hair does grow back giving the opportunity to refine your scissoring skills!

Ears:

- Carefully lift ear up. With thinners or curved shears, trim shaggy coat following outline of ear to within 1/4" of ear edge. Careful to NOT cut ear flap, especially on the back edge.
- Using thinners, work from bottom to top trim right side of ear flap horizontally to approx. 1/2" length. Keep working upwards. Stop about midway up the ear.
- Repeat process on left side of ear. Again, stop midway up.
- Work middle section. Repeat process, stop midway up.

- Now work from the top down and with the thinners held vertically, blend the remaining ear hair into the hair that you already cut. The goal is to make the ear blend nicely into the head without a choppy look.
- Lift flap up and trim with thinners the hair under the ear. Use blunt edge scissors to take off hair inside the ear. This will help to keep air flow open and reduce ear infections.

Neck/Chest:

- Use thinner to take long shaggy “lion’s mane” from behind ears, sides of neck, under chin, on chest down to the point of the chest (bumpy breast bone). Trim excess hair between legs.

Feet:

- Using straight or curved scissors, trim hair on bottom of feet between pads even with pads.
- With dog standing on grooming table or floor, brush the hair up between the toes. Trim excess to even with foot, blending into a nice round cat foot. Don’t cut too short, don’t want to see individual toes.
- Trim long hair around bottom of feet, even with foot. Repeat for all 4 feet

Front Leg Feathering:

- Brush feathers down and at a slight angle away from dog. Start at top and work down. Using straight or curved scissors, cut straight down. Angle scissors towards foot as you near bottom of feathering so it blends nicely into rear of foot. Repeat on other side.
- Lift one front leg into the air, scissor down the inside of the opposite front leg to get long scraggly fur. Repeat on other side.

Body:

- Using thinners trim long scraggly coat on underside of body. With males, make sure to cover boy parts with your hand to prevent cutting!

Rear “Pants”:

- If the hair is excessively long, it can be trimmed with the thinning shears, taking off scraggly ends and blending into the hock area.

Hocks:

- Comb hair down. With dog standing and the hock (straight bone above the rear feet) perpendicular to the floor, trim the excess bottom length even with the foot. Brush sides of hock hair out and trim even with side of foot. Repeat on the other side.

THAT’S IT!! Treat your wonderful Newf for being so good and stand back and admire your handiwork! Then treat yourself to dinner or something wonderful with the \$100 you didn’t have to pay the groomer!

Where to Buy Tools

Everything can be purchased on line at pet supply retailers such as Pet Edge. www.petedge.com For scissors and thinners, I recommend trying them in your hand to see how they feel. Vendors at large dog shows are a good source or try a beauty supply place open to the public such as Sally Beauty Supply.

As a general rule, the better the quality of tool, the better the final result.