

GROOMING MANUAL FOR THE DOG AND CAT



Sue Dallas, Diana North
and Joanne Angus



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Preface

The pet-owning population is growing, and with it the need for technical and practical knowledge of grooming and care of pets.

It is against the background of increasing growth in pet ownership and showing that the authors decided to write this book. It contains information on the breeds and coat types of dogs and cats, pre-grooming and general care and detailed step-by-step grooming and clipping techniques. The allied chapters to grooming contain useful information on skin and skin conditions, canine and feline diseases, parasites and first aid.

The dogs and cats featured in this book are a mix of pet and show animals to give the reader the opportunity to see the differences in grooming styles.

Both the professional groomer and the pet owner have been catered for in the easy-to-use format. The authors hope this book is useful to those starting a career in grooming, working towards a qualification in animal and nursing care, and as a reference text for grooming salons.

Many thanks go to the staff at Blackwell Publishing for their support throughout this project. Thanks also go to our colleagues, friends and families for giving us their support and encouragement to complete this book, particularly Peter, David and Leon.

*Sue Dallas
Diana North
Joanne Angus*

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Competitors at Eurogroom 2005.

The customers and dogs at Look North Grooming and Training Centre Ltd.

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About the Authors

Sue Dallas is a qualified veterinary nurse, and has worked in veterinary schools and veterinary practices in the UK and in North America. She has taught on both veterinary nursing and animal care courses for over 20 years and has been involved in a number of educational and examination developments. Sue has spoken at veterinary congresses both in the UK and around the world, promoting nursing and care of animals through training and education. In the early 1990s she became Editor of the *Veterinary Nursing Journal*, the official journal of the British Veterinary Nursing Association, and has also published textbooks for animal carers, veterinary nurses and auxiliary nurses.

Diana North and Joanne Angus have worked together in grooming for over 25 years and won many competitions both in the UK and abroad. As a salon, they specialised in training for groomers starting in the industry, pet owners and those wishing to improve their skills. Their company was the first grooming business to achieve the Investors in People award in 1995 and has continued to meet the national standards through the re-recognition process.

Joanne owns the Look North Grooming and Training Centre Ltd. She is an Advanced Groomer and a founder member of the Guild of Advanced Groomers. She has been Groomer of the Year on two occasions and won Best in Show at Eurogroom and a Gold Medal at Intergroom, USA. She is an examiner for the 7750 NPTC City and Guilds Advanced Certificate in Dog Grooming and the Pet Care Trust's BDGA Higher Diploma in Dog Grooming.

Diana is now retired from hands-on grooming but continues to be part of the education side of the industry. She is an External Verifier for the National Vocational Qualifications in Animal Care and a regular speaker to

groomers groups about the 7750 NPTC City and Guilds Advanced Certificate. She also spends time generally giving guidance on career routes in grooming. Diana is a founder member of the Guild of Advanced Groomers and an examiner for the grooming qualifications, having worked over the years on their development. Diana also answers grooming questions for *Your Dog* magazine.

Part 1

What You Need To Know

1

Breed Groups and Coat Types

DOGS

In this book we will be describing the specific pet and breed grooming styles for the commonest breeds seen today.

There are many different ways to categorise the dog breeds seen in the UK: by size, colour, characteristics or coat type. We shall be using two systems in this book, which have been cross-referenced to help you find your way through the many breeds.

- System one – Kennel Club breed groupings
- System two – Coat types

The breed groups

The Kennel Club categorises breeds into seven groups: Gundogs, Hounds, Pastoral, Terriers, Toy, Utility and Working. It helps while grooming a dog to bear in mind what it was originally bred for.

The Gundog group

Gundogs are quite natural looking, bred to work in the field or water. They are used to hunt, point and retrieve. In this group we find many of the commonest breeds seen today — Golden Retrievers, Labradors, Setters and Spaniels ([Fig. 1.1](#)).

[Fig. 1.1](#) Springer Spaniel.



The Hound group

Hounds use either sight or scent for hunting purposes and therefore may be very independent. They vary hugely in their construction from the small, low to ground Miniature Dachshund to the giant Irish Wolfhound. [Fig. 1.2](#) shows an Afghan Hound.

[Fig. 1.2](#) Afghan Hound.



The Pastoral group

These are the shepherding and herding breeds that are used worldwide to keep flocks and herds under control. The Border Collie, German Shepherd ([Fig. 1.3](#)) and Old English Sheepdog are some examples.

Fig. 1.3 German Shepherd.



The Terrier group

Terriers are the ratters and vermin hunters, very keen and sometimes wilful. They are often easily categorised by their distinct harsh coats ([Fig. 1.4](#)) but there are some in the group who differ, such as the Bedlington and Kerry Blue.

Fig. 1.4 Wire Fox Terrier.



The Toy group

These are the companion dogs sought after for their 'knee-warming' skills but don't be misled into believing that they do not have the same character as some of their bigger

relations. This group contains breeds such as the Yorkshire Terrier, Bichon Frise ([Fig. 1.5](#)) and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

[Fig. 1.5](#) Bichon Frise.



The Utility group

This is a vastly mixed group of dogs each with their own character or working abilities. They range from the Poodle to the Miniature Schnauzer to the Lhasa Apso ([Fig. 1.6](#)).

[Fig. 1.6](#) Lhasa Apso.



The Working group

The breeds in this group include the guarders and defenders. The commonest ones are the Dobermann ([Fig. 1.7](#)) and Rottweiler and then come the giant breeds such as St. Bernard and Newfoundland.

Fig. 1.7 Dobermann.



Coat types

For ease of reference we have categorised coats into five types: double coat, silky coat, smooth coat, wire coat and wool coat.

Double coats

A double coat consists of a dense, soft undercoat concealed by a longer topcoat. Several breeds of dog fit this coat type, so for the purposes of this book we have split this group into two:

- Double coat — one (untrimmed or tidied). The breeds with this type of coat are those that require much grooming and removal of dead undercoat with little or no trimming. Examples are the German Shepherd, Rough Collie, Samoyed, St. Bernard and Tervueren ([Fig. 1.8](#)).
- Double coat — two (trimmed). These breeds have a much longer topcoat, which in theory (and particularly for show purposes) should not be trimmed. However, for pet purposes a more practical, shortened style is far

more appropriate. Examples are the Lhasa Apso ([Fig. 1.9](#)), Shih Tzu and Old English Sheepdog.

Silky coat

The most important feature of this coat is its texture and not the length. Once again, breeds with this type of coat may require a lot or a small amount of trimming. Breed examples include the Afghan Hound, spaniels such as the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel ([Fig. 1.10](#)) and Yorkshire Terrier.

[Fig. 1.8](#) Tervueren.



[Fig. 1.9](#) Lhasa Apso in teddy bear trim.



[Fig. 1.10](#) King Charles Spaniel.



Fig. 1.11 Staffordshire Bull Terrier.



Smooth coat

This coat is easily defined by the length, being short and tight to the body. This coat type is the low-maintenance type in grooming terms. The main objectives of grooming these breeds is to remove dead coat and give a glossy finish. Breed examples include the Boxer, Dobermann, Weimeraner and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier ([Fig. 1.11](#)).

Wire coat

This coat has a harsh, dense topcoat with a softer undercoat. The coat should be 'hand-stripped' to maintain the correct texture and colour but many pets are clipped for the ease and cost of grooming — this is not acceptable in the show ring. The main breed examples here are terriers, e.g. West Highland White, Wire Fox, Border ([Fig. 1.12](#)) and

Scottish Terrier although there are other breeds such as the Miniature Schnauzer and Wire Haired Dachshund.

Fig. 1.12 Border Terrier.



Fig. 1.13 Standard Poodle.



Wool coat

For the purpose of this book we have used this group to include a multitude of breeds whose coats perhaps fit better here than under other coat types, although Breed Standards do not specify 'wool coat'. These breeds require specific drying techniques and trimming styles. Examples are

poodles ([Fig. 1.13](#)), Irish Water Spaniels and Bichon ([Fig. 1.5](#)).

Irrespective of breed or coat type, all dogs should be groomed on a regular basis for many reasons:

- Promotes good handler—dog relationship.
- Promotes health, cleanliness and well-being of the dog.
- Provides an opportunity to inspect the dog for any skin, coat or health problems.

Always remember that when you are grooming a dog you are the one in charge and not the dog. Learn to make grooming a pleasurable experience for both you and the dog. Further details of handling are covered in Chapter 4.

Cross-reference system

The breeds are in alphabetical order with their breed group represented as follows:

Gd = Gundogs To = Toy

Ho = Hounds Ut = Utility

Pa = Pastoral Wo = Working

Te = Terriers

The coat types will also be abbreviated as follows:

Dc1 = Double coat — one Dc2 = Double coat — two

Si = Silky Sm = Smooth

Wi = Wire Wo = Wool

Gundogs (Gd)

English Setter Si

Gordon Setter Si

Irish Setter Si

Italian Spinone Wi

Retriever

Flat Coat Dc1

Golden Dc1

Labrador	Dc1
Spaniels	
American Cocker	Si
Clumber	Si
Cocker	Si
English Springer	Si
Field	Si
Irish Water	Wo
Sussex	Si
Welsh Springer	Si

Hounds (Ho)

Afghan	Si
Dachshund	Sm, Wi or Si
Deerhound	Wi
Irish Wolfhound	Wi

Pastoral (Pa)

Bearded Collie	Dc2
Border Collie	Dc1 or Sm
German Shepherd	Dc1
Old English Sheepdog	Dc2
Polish Lowland Sheepdog	Dc2
Rough Collie	Dc1
Samoyed	Dc1
Shetland Sheepdog	Dc1

Terriers (Te)

Airedale	Wi
Bedlington	Wo
Border	Wi
Cairn	Wi
Dandie Dinmont	Wi
Irish	Wi
Kerry Blue	Si

Lakeland	Wi
Norfolk	Wi
Norwich	Wi
Parson Russell Terrier	Wi
Scottish	Wi
Sealyham	Wi
Soft Coated Wheaten	Si
Welsh	Wi
West Highland White	Wi
Wire Fox	Wi

Toys (To)

Bichon Frise	Wo
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	Si
Griffon Bruxellois	Wi or Sm
Lowchen	Si
Maltese	Si
Papillion	Si
Pekingese	Dc1
Pomeranian	Dc1
Yorkshire Terrier	Si

Utility (Ut)

Chow Chow	Dc1
Lhasa Apso	Dc2
Miniature Schnauzer	Wi
Poodle	Wo
Schnauzer	Wi
Shih Tzu	Dc2
Tibetan Terrier	Dc2

Working (Wo)

Bernese Mountain Dog	Dc1
Bouvier des Flandres	Dc2

Boxer	Sm
Dobermann	Sm
Giant Schnauzer	Wi
Newfoundland	Dc1
St. Bernard	Dc1

Of course there are some exceptionally different coats in the world of dogs, which we felt needed a mention, such as the corded coat of the Hungarian Puli and the unusual look of the Chinese Crested. However, specialist knowledge is required for maintaining the coats of these breeds and therefore these are not covered in this book.

In Chapter 2 the breed names are followed by the group and coat type's abbreviated name so that you know which tools and equipment are relevant for each, for example:

- Bernese Mountain Dog (Wo-Dc1) = Working dog with Double coat — one.
- West Highland White (Te-Wi) = Terrier group with a wire coat.

Working with this book should be easy, as specific details for trimming each breed are given on a designated page (see Chapter 11). There are sections on grooming out, and bathing and drying in Chapters 4, 6 and 9, and these are reinforced in the checklists in Chapter 10 and the breed profiles in Chapter 11. In cases of breeds with similar trimming requirements, cross-references have been provided to the other breed(s).

CATS

A cat's fur is its most admired feature, and it is also an important part of its body. It is not just the basis for cat breed identification but on a functional level it:

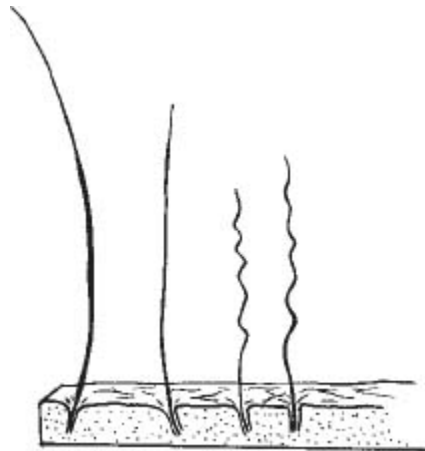
- Provides a barrier between the cat's skin and its environment

- Protects the cat from injury and infection
- Helps to regulate body temperature
- Insulates the body in cold weather
- Is a general guide to health
- Protects against excess sunlight and chemicals

The coat hair may be:

- Long
- Short
- Hard
- Soft
- Silky
- Coarse
- Thick
- Wavy

Fig. 1.14 Cat hair types. From left to right: guard, awn and down hair.



Selective breeding and genetic mutation have enhanced cats' coats and in fact have caused coat loss. The result is that the various cat breeds not only have different textures of coat but also have an incredible variety of colour and coat pattern. The basic type of cat, the wild type, is the Tabby cat. It is from the Tabby that all other breeds of cat have evolved. A cat's coat may contain up to 200 hairs per square millimetre (130 000 per square inch). The cat has a

top coat of guard hair and an undercoat which consists of coarse, bristly awn hairs and soft down hairs ([Fig. 1.14](#)).

The guard or primary hairs normally form the coarse outer layer of the coat. In the cat these hairs tend to be rooted in individual hair follicles. They are connected to the nervous system (autonomic) and therefore respond to information from the senses (eyes, ears, smell and touch) in the form of excitement, fear, cold or the fight reflex. The guard hairs stand upright at these times giving the cat an aggressive appearance. There are more of these hairs on the cat's back and sides making it appear larger to another animal. If the cat is cold then these hairs stand up providing an area around the cat in which to trap body heat and thus acts as a form of insulation. Throughout the top coat of guard hairs is the under coat made up of bristly awn hairs with thickened tips and the soft downy hairs which lie close to the skin.

Generally cats are considered to be either short haired or long haired with a guard hair length from 4.5 cm to 15 cm. Besides the length, there is the coat's density and texture. This is provided by the guard, awn, and down hairs. These three hairs vary from one breed to another.

The ideal coat of a pedigree cat has been set out in Breed and Show Standards, over the last 100 years of selective breeding. The aim of the Standards is to ensure that any proposed new breed is different from other registered breeds and that there are enough potential breeders interested in breeding the cat to support the agreed Standard. The process may take a number of years, through preliminary and provisional stages before being shown in championship level classes. This is regulated by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

For grooming purposes, cat breeds can be subdivided into:

- Long hair: Persian
- Semi-long hair: Birman, Turkish Van, Ragdoll
- Short hair: British short hair, Manx

- Short hair: Foreign Abyssinian, Russian Blue, Cornish and Devon Rex
- Short hair: American Shaded Silver, Red Tabby
- Burmese: Burmese
- Oriental: Oriental Black, Blue and Caramel Havana
- Siamese: Siamese, Balinese

In North America domestic cats are categorised in two groups only:

- Long hair
- Short hair

Coat types

Long coat

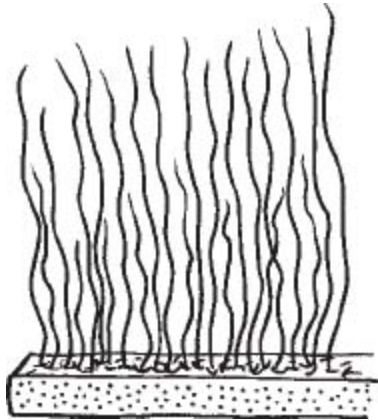
Cats with long coats have large bodies and a round head. The nose is short, the eyes are large and the ears are small. The coat is long and double with soft undercoat and quite coarse guard hairs of almost the same length as the undercoat ([Fig. 1.15](#)). Although these cats will self-groom, to prevent matting of the coat the owner needs to assist the cat. This will prevent tangles forming, which the cat cannot deal with. Typical long haired breeds include Persian and Angora.

In the long hair coat the down hair is almost as long as the guard hair, giving the coat a soft silky feel. The longest guard hair length is about 12.5 cm ([Fig. 1.16](#)). Breeds like the Turkish or Birman, though genetically the same as the Persian, have shorter down hairs, leaving the coat less full.

[Fig. 1.15](#) Long-haired kitten.



Fig. 1.16 Long hair and semi-long hair with guard hairs which may exceed 12.5 cm and down hairs of various lengths.



Semi-long coat

These cats are sturdy and muscular with a normal shaped head and length of nose. The eyes are of normal size, however the upright ears can be large. The coat is long but not as double as the Persian, having either a finer or a shaggy texture (which means that the coat is less liable to matting).

Short coat

This coat is dense and easy to care for. It is easier to clean and unlikely to get tangled. [Fig. 1.17 a and b](#) show cats with