

# **GROOMING MANUAL FOR THE DOG AND CAT**

**Sue Dallas** VN, Cert Ed

**Diana North** LCGI

**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.

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Mary Allen for photographs in Chapter 1.

## 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**



# Breed Groups and Coat Types

## DOGS

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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  
Ho = Hounds  
Pa = Pastoral  
Te = Terriers

To = Toy  
Ut = Utility  
Wo = Working

The coat types will also be abbreviated as follows:

Dc1 = Double coat — one

Si = Silky

Wi = Wire

Dc2 = Double coat — two

Sm = Smooth

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