

# Grooming a Small Long-Haired Dog



**These instructions are only for mild mannered dogs!**  
Do not attempt to use these instructions for any dog that bites or has a history of aggression.

## 1 Gather the Required Supplies

The following is a list of all the required items. For your convenience a shopping list has been provided for you at the end of these instructions.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grooming Check List
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brush
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cotton Swabs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ear Wash
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finger Nail File
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nail Clippers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scissors
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shampoo & Conditioner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Held Shower Head
<input type="checkbox"/>	Towel

## 2 Prepare the Grooming Area

Place the supplies (gathered in step 1) in the bathroom where you will be bathing the dog. The shampoo and conditioner should be placed in the bathtub where you will be able to easily reach them once the dog is in the tub. Place the towel outside of the tub, but also within reach.

Install the hand held shower head by following the manufacturer's instructions.

## 3 Prepare the Bath Water

Using the hand held shower head in the extended position, adjust the water temperature until it is comfortably warm (96° to 100°F). Generally dogs will prefer a cooler water temperature than you do.

### Watch for Warning Signs



If during the bath, **the dog begins to pant or shiver** the water temperature needs to be adjusted. Stop what ever you are doing and adjust the temperature a few degrees.

- Shivering Dog = Increase the water temperature (warmer)
- Panting Dog = Decrease the water temperature (cooler)

## 4 Place the Dog in the Bathtub

Remove the dog's collar or other accessories. Gently place the dog in the tub away from the spray of water. Many small dogs are apprehensive of water, so do not allow yourself to become excited. Projecting a calm and in-control demeanor will help the dog to relax and make the job of grooming the dog easier.

## 5 Wet the Dog's Body

Beginning with the dog's hind legs and leaving the dog's head and face dry, wet the dog in slow sweeping motions. Do not forget to wet the dog's stomach and chest. You may need to move some of the dog's hair out of the way in order for the spray to reach the dog's underside.

# 6

## Wet the Dog's Head

Using your less dominant hand, grip the dog's muzzle by placing the fingers of your hand on top of the dog's muzzle from the side. Your fingers should be between its eyes and nose; wrap your thumb around the underside of the muzzle until it touches your fingers. Your grip should be firm but it should not cause the dog pain or discomfort. Gently tilt the dog's nose upward. With the dog's nose pointed toward the ceiling, use the shower head in your other hand to wet the top and sides of the dog's head. **Be careful to keep water out of the dog's eyes and nose.** Spraying water into the dog's eyes or nose will excite the dog and make the job of bathing it much more difficult.



# 7

## Shampoo

Squeeze shampoo out of the bottle and into a thin line starting at the dog's neck and ending at its tail. Excluding the fur around the dog's eyes and nose, work the shampoo into lather, making sure to clean all of the animal's fur.



# 8

## Rinse

Using the same slow sweeping motion to wet the dog as described in step 5, thoroughly rinse all of the shampoo from the dog's fur. You will need to grip the dog's muzzle as described in step 6 to rinse the dog's head. Dogs are especially vulnerable to dry skin, so rinsing the shampoo completely out of the dog's fur is very important.

# 9

## Condition & Rinse

This step is optional, but if your dog has long hair that tangles easily, conditioning the dog's hair will make the job of brushing easier for you and less painful for the dog. Use the same technique described for shampooing the dog in step 7, replacing the conditioner for the shampoo. Next, rinse out all of the conditioner using the technique described in step 8.

## 10 Rinse the Dog's Face

Using your wet hands, free from soap and conditioner, gently rinse the hair on the dog's face that you were unable to get with the shampoo or conditioner. If the dog has dirty build-up caused by mucous discharge of the eyes, it will have softened during the bathing process. Use your index finger and thumb to gently lift this debris out of the hair and wash it down the drain. Rinse your hand and repeat until the dog's face is clean.



## 11 End the Bath

While it is still in the tub, allow the dog to shake excess water off its body. Once done, drape the towel over its back, wrapping the excess around its stomach and lift the dog out of the tub.

## 12 Dry the Dog

**Do NOT place your dog on a table or other high surface**, as most dogs will become excited after a bath. In this excited state the dog may jump off the high surface, injuring itself. **Do NOT place the dog on the floor until you are in a confined area**, as most dogs will instinctively start drying themselves by rubbing up against cloth or other soft surfaces. Once in the confined area, sit on the floor and place the dog in front of you. Rub the towel gently against the dog's body to remove as much water as possible from the dog's fur.

## 13 Prepare for Post-Bath Grooming

Still sitting on the floor, spread the towel out on the floor in front of you. Make sure that the brush, scissors, cotton swabs, ear wash, nail clippers and nail file are within reach.

## 14 Brush the Dog's Fur

Place the dog on the towel that you placed on the floor in step 13 and take the brush from your grooming supplies. Starting at the dog's hind legs, identify a long portion of hair about 3 inches wide. Start brushing

the 3 inch strip of hair about 3-inches from the bottom of the strand. Brush this 3x3 inch section of hair until it is tangle free. Next, move up the length of hair, toward the dog's body about 3-inches and brush to the end, continuing until this section is tangle free. Repeat this pattern progressing up the length of hair in 3-inch intervals until the entire length of hair is tangle free. Continue using this technique of combing long strands of hair bottom to top in 3-inch intervals until all of the dog's hair has been brushed and is completely tangle free.

### Watch for Warning Signs



If the dog's **fur is severely matted**, and you are unable to brush it, cut the matted portion of hair from the dog's coat by using the scissors, cutting as close to the matted hair as possible. For extreme cases or when the mat is directly against the dog's skin, consult a professional groomer or a veterinarian.

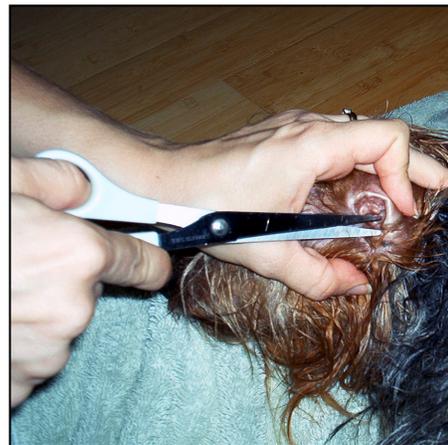
## 14 Trim Fur

Grip the dog's head, by placing the fingers of your less dominant hand over the top of the dog's head from the side and wrapping your thumb around the bottom of the dog's muzzle. Keeping a firm grip and using the scissors in your more dominant hand, trim the hair that is growing into the dog's eyes or could be obscuring the dog's vision.



## 15 Clean Ears

Cover your legs with the towel. Gently grip the dog's head and force one of its ears against the towel on your lap. Position the dog's head so that you can easily look into the opposite ear. Using the scissors, cut as much hair out of the ear as possible. Then squeeze the ear cleaning solution into the dog's ear until the cavity is full. Continue to hold the dog's head against your lap and gently massage the outside base of the ear for approximately 45 seconds. Afterward use a cotton swab or cotton ball to remove any dirt, wax or other debris from the ear. To avoid damaging the dog's ear drum **never insert cotton swabs into the ear canal**. Then repeat for the other ear.



### Watch for Warning Signs

Make an appointment with a veterinarian if there is/are...



- an unpleasant odor coming from the ear.
- swelling, redness or irritation in the ear.
- parasites such as mites, fleas or ticks in the ear.

All of the above may be signs of a more serious condition that, if left untreated, could cause permanent hearing loss.

## 16 Trim Nails

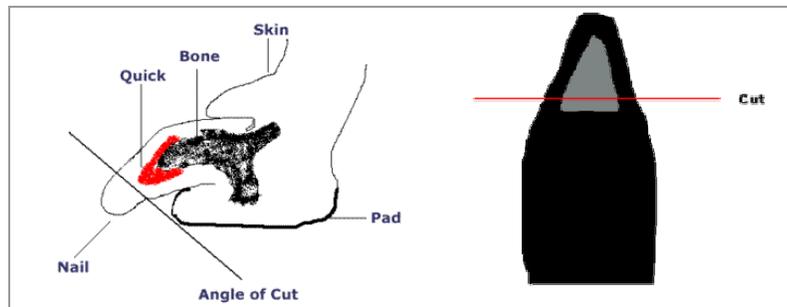
A dog's nails should just touch the ground when it walks. If the nails make a clicking sound when the dog walks or get snagged in the carpet, continue with this step. Otherwise, skip to the next step. Place your less dominant arm around the middle of the dog's body and hold it against your chest. Again using your less dominant hand, hold the dog's foot. Place your thumb on top of the toe and your other fingers on the pad of the foot. Insert the nail into the clipper and clip below the quick (see Additional Information for identifying the quick) at a 45° angle. Once done, use the nail file to smooth off any rough edges. Repeat on each nail.

### Additional Information



#### Identifying the Quick

Dog's nails have a 'quick', containing a nerve and blood vessel that run down the middle of the nail. Cutting the quick will cause minor bleeding. In dogs with un-pigmented or clear nails, the quick is easy to identify as it looks pink under the nail. It is almost impossible to see the quick in dogs with dark nails. In this case look at the underside of the nail. You should see a triangle; the base of this triangle is generally where the quick begins. Cut above the base.



Figures from: <http://www.sealevelaussies.com/>

# 17 Replace the Collar

Replace the dog's collar, and praise yourself and the dog. You are finished. All that is left is to enjoy you clean dog.





## Shopping List



### **Slicker Brush**

This type of brush is made especially for animals with sensitive skin and tender coats. The bristles should be made of stainless steel and feel sturdy to the touch, but give way when pressure is applied to them.



### **Cotton Swabs and/or Cotton Balls**



### **Ear Wash**

Ear wash must be purchased at a pet store or in a veterinarian's office. One common brand is Epi-Otic made by Virbac.



### **Finger Nail File**



### **Nail Trimmer**

A pet nail trimmer made specifically for small breeds is required.



### **Scissors**

Preferably, clean and sharp.



### **Shampoo & Conditioner**

Dog shampoo can be purchased in the pet section of most general stores, at veterinarians' offices or in pet stores. A mild shampoo made for people will also work just as well. (e.g. Baby Shampoo)



### **Handheld Shower Head**

Make sure the shower head has an extension hose that is long enough to extend from the shower spigot to the bottom of the bathtub when installed. This type of shower head can be purchased at most hardware stores and are very easy to install.



### **Towel**

A terrycloth bath style towel.