

Show Grooming by Dog Coat Type

Dog Handlers and seasoned experts share their grooming tips.

Long, Flowing CoatsJody Paquette is a professional all-breed handler, and second-generation breeder. She says, "I have been involved in dogs throughout my entire life. My parents were handlers and Shih Tzu breeders. I also breed Whippets along with the Shih Tzu." She was twice named Canada's Top Junior Handler, representing Canada at Crufts each time. She has also handled numerous Best in Show winners in both the United States and Canada. She currently lives near Louisville, Ky.

Rules1. Keep your dog clean. This does not mean that they cannot run in the yard or play in the house, but you must bathe them regularly more often if they are more active. All our dogs are bathed once or twice a week, and some three times!

2. Use proper brushes, combs, shampoos and conditioners.

3. With long coats, it is very important to brush them out every day or so, and make sure that their topknots are done often. Separate all mats with fingers, and use a spray conditioner while brushing.

4. I also think a proper diet plays a huge role in conditioning your dog's coat. I feed Purina Chicken and Rice Performance. I do not add any supplements. I find my dogs' coats grow very fast, their whites stay white, and they maintain their color.

ToolsSome of the products and tools I swear by are: Pantene shampoo and conditioner; Plush Puppy and All Systems brushes; and Pure Paws Ultra Brightening Shampoo, for whiter whites. It also makes darker dogs and smooth-coated dogs very shiny. I use In-Depth by Wella, and Pure Paws Ultra Cream Conditioner, as treatments for dry coats.

Next step: [Smooth Coats](#) | [More Coat Types](#)