

## Show Grooming by Dog Coat Type

**Dog Handlers and seasoned experts share their grooming tips.**

**Curly Coats**Tara Darling-Lyon has bred Irish Water Spaniels for more than 20 years, with a dog from her kennel in the top 10 every year. She was the top breeder in IWS last year, with both the top-producing dam and dog. Her Ch. Tara's Captain Morgan was the No. 1 club-owned IWS in 2003; and her young male Tara's Teal Take Flight won Best of Winners at the 2005 national specialty. She is also a member of the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America.

**Rules**1. The most important thing is to make sure that the coat is free of any mats before bathing. A mat on a curly-coated dog tightens up when wet, and is impossible to get out. So, a good brushing and breaking-up of the mats is necessary.

2. Next, get the dog really clean with a good shampoo like All Systems Super Clean, and use a conditioner if needed.

3. We blot our dogs, then let them air dry to keep the curls. The other option is to blow them all out, give a good, level haircut, then rewet the coat to curl.

**Tools**Pre-show, we spray the coat with water, from bath to ring; each time the curl will get tighter. A slicker brush, Greyhound comb, good pair of scissors and a spray bottle of water are the tools we use. We clipper-trim faces to keep them nice and neat.

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