

GROOMING YOUR PEKINGESE

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A well-groomed Pekingese is a happy Pekingese!

With its glossy coat, long plume tail and fringes. Pekingese stay as nature intended them to, with no cropping or ears or docking of tails. Grooming should start as soon as possible as the new pet is settled in its new home. If one waits too long you might have a not so disciplined dog!

The most important part of the grooming equipment is the brush, and it should be used every day if possible. Genuine bristle brushes are preferred, especially those that are not too stiff. At some stores you will notice brushes with balls on the end of the pins. These are unacceptable! These brushes tend to pull the coat out and cause it to split! A good Pekingese dog brush is the #1 All Systems Pin Brush that can be obtained at many of the show vendors at dog shows. This brush is great for starting to work on the coat, then for the final results brush over the dog with the Mason Pearson brush which is made from boar bristles. I, myself, like the 1/2 and 1/2 Mason Brush rather than the 100% boar bristle.

A coarse-toothed comb steel comb should be used just to work out any tangles, not for rough combing that might pull the coat out. A good fine-tooth comb is great for combing out the face, be careful not to poke the eyes when doing so, also great for the muzzle hairs.

Also, a good slicker brush, this will pull the dead hair out of the coat if you do not intend on showing the dog. The slicker brush is also very good to use if the dog is losing his/her puppy fuzz! Place a blanket or towel on the table on which you'll groom your pet. This is most important. If you do not groom your pet on the table, your pet might fear the table at the shows therefore lacking in points and style! The most important tip when starting to groom is make sure you start with a "CLEAN" dog. If your dog requires a bath, then do so but brush out the coat quickly removing any mats or tangles as this will be harder to do later after the bath. There are many products available today to give a dry bath which powder is used. To clean the coat as well, one can sprinkle baby powder or medicated gold bond powder into the coat.

Grooming Instructions

1). Start with the underneath coat. Carefully turn your peke on its back or side. If the coat is soiled, wring a cloth out in warm water and rub the soiled places, sprinkle with talcum/baby/medicated foot powder and rub it well into the coat. If your peke is a male, you can shave the hair before the penis, in an upside down V. This will take care of the urine smell that some males will have. You can cut some of the hair around the penis as well to keep it sanitary, especially if used for breeding purposes. Now brush each strand of hair till it seems to stand alone. If the coat is not soiled, just brush it. A little amount of powder can be used to bring out the dead coat and to

clean the coat. Medicated Powder can also be used, this works well in relief off dry flaking skin but be careful not to get any into the eyes.

2). Turn your pet over and place him on his feet. Brush briskly, using the light strokes against the lay of the coat. Start at the back of the neck and brush forward from the skin to the end of the hair and always toward the head. Brush coat up from the sides to emphasize the appearance of a wide, heavy front. A little amount of powder can be put behind the ears to prevent mats and to refreshen the coat.

3). Clean the ears gently not probing to far inside. Gently use a damp cloth and carefully remove any wax accumulation with a cotton swab. You can use Mineral Oil, diuluted vinegar with water 3/4 vinegar/water, or dilute half and half alcohol with water to make a cleaner. Do not use the alcohol mixture if there is any irritated skin. Then dust a pinch of medicated powder into each ear. Brush the ear fringes on the end of the ear, since the ear is pulled back. Also any ear hair in the ear canal should be removed with tweezers, this prevents wax build up, mites and other problems. Comb ear fringes forward to give feathery effect.

4). Comb hair from underneath ears forward toward face. Brush hair on top-skull back, giving it a flat, square look and hiding any apple-headed look or appearance of roundness of the head.

5). Put tail over back then brush, part hair of tail in the middle. Let feathering from tall fall to either side of body to emphasize shortness in body.

6). Comb freely on feathering, upwards slightly. Comb lightly on feathering, ear fringes, tail, etc. As combing to rough will cause damage to the coat.

NOTE: Keep the toenails trimmed at all times or they will grow back into the foot pad causing extreme pain. An eye can be badly damaged by an uncut toenail. See to it that you do not cut too far down when cutting the toenails. This can injure the "quick", which will cause pain and bleeding. If bleeding does occur, you can dab the end of the nail with a product that is available at your local pet store called, "Quickstop". Trim the hair between the pads of the feet, for accumulated dirt will cause soreness. Dust a little powder between the pads after cleaning and drying them.

IMPORTANT: You do not want to bathe your Peke to often, as this will strip the coat from its essential oils resulting in dry irritated skin leaving the coat flat and lifeless. There are some dogs that enjoy the outdoors just after a rain which can be disastrous on the coat. When the coat feels dirty, it is time for a bath! Powder put into the coat will clean the coat as well as protect the skin from dryness.

Remember: if a Peke is not brushed every day, there will be tangles in the coat.