

GROOMING THE IRISH SETTER

The Irish Setter originated in Ireland. They are well balanced, athletic dogs and are known for their hunting abilities. They come in rich chestnut, to deep mahogany in colour. They are friendly and loyal dogs.

Before you begin grooming your dog, you must try to understand the structure of the dog and purpose of the breed. This will enable you to groom the dog closer to perfection .

The tools and products required :-

1. Eye cleaning wipes
2. Ear cleaning solution
3. Cotton wool/ear buds
4. Slicker brush
5. Greyhound comb
6. Pin Brush/ Soft bristle brush
7. Nail clipper/Nail grinder
8. Straight Shears/Curved Shears/Thinning Shears
9. Carding Stone
10. Detangling Spray
11. Dematting rake
12. Cleansing shampoo
13. Colour Restoration shampoo
14. Rubber Scrubbing brush
15. Absorbant Towel
16. Cotton Towel
17. Blow dryer
18. Turbo dryer
19. Colouring chalk in red/brown and Mahogany
20. Finishing spray or Silky shine Oil.
21. Clipper and blade #7 , #15

Procedure

Clean the eyes using a pre-moistened eye cleaning wipe. Start from the inner corner and move towards the outer corner to remove any dirt or debris that might be present. Ensure that you do not rub the eyes too much as this can cause the dog a lot of discomfort or damage the eye area.

Then use a few drops of ear cleaning solution on a piece of cotton wool and clean the insides of the ear flap. Use a pet cotton bud to clean the crevices.

Now begin to brush the dog's hair with a slicker brush in the direction of its growth, avoiding the sensitive areas of the dog. Concentrate on the areas behind the ears, the fore-chest, brisket, thighs and tail. Next, use a Greyhound comb in the same areas to ensure there are no matts or knots in the hair. Sometimes you might have to use the Pin brush before using the Greyhound comb. In case there are matts or tangles in the hair, do not snip them with the scissors. Spray some detangling spray over the matt , only if necessary and use the de-matting rake to split the matt into smaller sections. Then comb with a Greyhound comb.

Clip the nails and grind or file them to ensure that there are no sharp edges or splints. In case, the dog's nails are too hard, then clip them after the bath as they would have become softer.

Now prepare your dog for the bath. Plug the ears with a little cotton to avoid the water from getting into the ears, as that may lead to ear infections.

Make sure that the water is warm or tepid. Begin the bath by wetting the dog's coat thoroughly. Apply the cleansing shampoo throughout the body, concentrating on the fore-chest, featherings, thighs and tail. Work it into a rich lather. Use the rubber scrubbing brush in the direction of the dog's coat. Rinse thoroughly and make sure there is no shampoo residue on the dog's coat.

Follow using a colour restoring shampoo. Apply it thoroughly all over the body and lather it into a rich foam. Wait for a couple of minutes before rinsing off thoroughly. This will restore the coat's condition, enhancing its natural look and shine. It will also make the coat appear well bodied and free flowing.

Once the dog's coat has been rinsed thoroughly, use the absorbant towel to remove all excess water. Pat dry with a cotton towel. Use the turbo dryer to dry the dog's hair in the direction of the hair growth. Avoid using the turbo dryer on the face and sensitive areas.

Then, spray the coat conditioning all over the body. Do not use too much conditioning spay as it can make the coat sticky . Begin to blow dry in the direction of the coat using a pin brush. Concentrate on the fore-chest and the thighs and make sure that the dog's coat is completely dry. If necessary, use a pet hair iron to iron the frills of the coat and tail to give a neater appearance.

For the final touches

Use the thinning shears or carding stone to neaten the dog's face, around his muzzle and on top of his head. Trim the whiskers and blend the head over the neck with the thinning shears. Ensure you have covered the area around his ears too.

In case you find it necessary to use a clipper, use blade size #7 to clip over the head, 1/3rd on the top of the ears from the head and on the inside of the ear flap as well. Use the clipper to trim down the hair of the inside of the neck to form a “U” shape just above his fore-chest. Ensure there are no clipper marks. Trim the top of the body with a thinning shears and blend it into his featherings on the underline of his body. Use the curved shears to trim the fore-chest and the straight shears to trim the featherings in the underline of his body.

Trim the featherings on the thighs with a curved shear, and the tail slightly with the straight shear to give the dog’s hair shape and definition. The tail length must fall at the hock level.

Do not trim the hair on the ears, as the ears need to have their length.

Clip the hair between the pads of the feet (under the paws) with blade #15. Clip the hair carefully so you do not injure the dog. Comb the hair backwards on the top of the paws to lift up the hair between the toes and scissor using a thinning shear. Then trim the hair around his paws with a curved shear, to give the appearance of tight catlike paws.

Make sure you trim the hair on the hocks with a thinning shear to give a neat and straight appearance.

If the dog has less hair, it is better not to clip or shape the dog excessively.

Once all the trimming has been done, use a soft bristle brush to remove any trimmed hair that might have settled on the coat. Use a Greyhound comb to ensure that there are no tangles left on the coat, especially under the arms, the fore-chest and thighs. Slicker brush the dog to set the dog’s hair in place .

In case you see any discolouration on the dogs coat ,in any small area, including white streaks, you can camouflage it by using the chalk. Make sure that you choose the correct coloured chalk before applying it.

Finally use a little bit of silky oil slightly, all over the dogs coat to give a high shine .Use finishing spray to set the coat and enhance the colour of the coat. This will also serve as a coat protectant and keeps the coat conditioned and lustrous

Your Irish Setter is now Show Ready.

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