



Grooming Your Sheltie



www.njsheltierescue.org
info@njsheltierescue.org

Learn to line brush your sheltie with a pin brush and a spray bottle of water. Using the pin brush, start at the neck and separate the coat in a line down to the skin. Spray with water and brush against the lay of the coat, one thin layer of hair at a time. Then make a new part and spray again. Dampen the undercoat to make the hair stand off and prevent breakage. NEVER use a Furminator on your sheltie as it breaks the coat off. A once a week thorough brushing is optimal.

Nails should be clipped or dremeled at least every two weeks. They should be short enough not to touch the floor when the dog is standing. Be sure to do the dew claws, if your dog has them, as well. Use a small clipper or scissors to trim the hair that grows on the bottom of the foot between the pads, this will really cut down on the amount of dirt your sheltie brings into the house and also make it less slippery for him. Tops of paws can be brushed up with a small slicker brush and trimmed. Trim the paws all around into an oval shape with a straight or curved shear. This also helps greatly when trimming the nails as long hair on the paws can make nail cutting difficult.

You can learn to trim your sheltie's ears using a small thinning shear if desired and a small slicker brush. This will give your sheltie a neater look. Pay special attention to the area behind the ears as this fine hair mats easily. You can use a bit of baby powder here to absorb the grease. Before trimming, make sure this area is clean and grease free. I use diluted Dawn dish detergent as it cuts the grease well. If not clean, you won't get a good result trimming. The ears are the most difficult part of the dog to learn how to groom but practice makes perfect. Remember, hair grows back!!

It helps to clip hair around your sheltie's rear end underneath the tail and will keep him cleaner. You can either use scissors or the clipper for this sanitary trim.

Long ragged hock hair can be trimmed by brushing it back and trimming it in a straight line when looking at your dog from the side.

Tools necessary to keep your sheltie looking neat are:

- Spray bottle of water
- Pin brush (such as a Special Master)
- Small soft slicker brush (Doggyman is a good brand)
- Nail clipper or dog dremel tool (Aussie dog makes a great clipper)
- Fromm mini thinner shear
- Curved or straight shear
- Small rechargeable or battery operated clipper

All of these items are available online. There is also a WONDERFUL series of videos for grooming, bathing and trimming available for free on YouTube. They are by Karen Linkletter. They are for show grooming but bits and pieces can also be used for your pet dog. They are very informative and show how to do everything.