

GROOMING THE

written by
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IRISH WATER SPANIEL

Begin grooming the Irish Water Spaniel with a regular prep.

1. Clip pads with a #15 blade
2. Cut nails.
3. Clean ears with a liquid ear cleaner. There is no hair to be pulled out of an I.W.S. ear. The hanging ears do require frequent cleaning to keep them healthy.
4. Brush out and comb through entire coat
5. The face and tail should be clipped at this time if desired.

The face hair naturally grows short, however you may need to get rid of any excessive hair growth that detracts from the smooth look. Cut with the growth with a #10 blade. The muzzle whiskers may or may not be trimmed off as to your liking. The pattern is as follows, from just below the corner of the eye to just below the top of the ear opening. From the top corner of the mouth to the lower base of the ear so the cheek is smooth. (See figure #1). The beard is to be left since it is a particular breed characteristic. The sideburns that were taken off in the above sentence may be left as well. I only recommend leaving the sideburns on dogs that are not cheeky. (See figure #2)

On the bridge of the nose in between the eyes the hair grows down into an inverted "V" do not shave this off. It is suppose to grow this way (See figure #3).

To form the "V" on the throat leave the beard and clip similar to a poodle. From the base of the ear to the breast bone. (See Figure #4)

The tail is a unique characteristic of the breed as well. At the base it is covered with tight curls extending onto the tail for 2 or 3 inches, the rest of the tail is smooth hence the nickname, "The Rat tail Spaniel". The tail may be clipped with the growth with a #10 Blade to get rid of any unwanted hair. (See Figure #5)

6. Bathe the dog with a shampoo of choice. I do not recommend using a heavy conditioning shampoo or an after bath conditioner either since it tends to destroy the coat texture that is desired.
7. I use a power dryer to remove excess water from the coat for drying all over. The body coat is allowed to dry with some curl in it while I fluff out the leg coat just as you would a poodle. Ears are dried straight. Make sure all

knots are removed from inbetween the toes.

8. To begin scissoring comb through the coat. As when scissoring a poodle pull the hair straight up and away from the body with a comb. The body is left about 1 1/2 inches long. The topline is straight slightly Rounding into a low tail set (See figure #5).

The rear leg should be scissored to show moderate angulation and a low set hock.

The front leg should be scissored round and column like and rather full. The hair will settle and compress slightly after fluffing (See figure #4 & #6).

The shoulder is clean and sloping (See figure #4).

The neck is long and arching.

The skirt is scissored straight. Starting at the elbow and slightly sloping up towards the rear. But, do not create a tuck-up.

(See figure # 6. for all above.)

9. To scissor the head do not scissor like a poodle but more like a bichon.

The topknot is left full to hang in tight curls all around. the ends are evened up to promote curling and to remove sunburnt ends. The hair is scissored into a well defined peak ("V") that extends down between the eyes (See figure # 7 & 8). The hair is shorter over the top of the ears to accentuate a low ear set but not defined like that of a poodle (See figure #8). The back of the topknot is blended into the neck

The above directions are to groom a dog to breed standard however variations may be made for pets.

A clip on blade #1 or #2 made be used for the body coat of a pet.

For an I.W.S that does a lot of swimming during the summer months I find a #2 (#5) blade with legs scissored short to be an easy maintenance clip. I do scissor the head always since the distinct topknot makes the breed.

I recommend grooming every 4-8 weeks depending on length and thickness of coat

GROOMING THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL BY SUSAN TAPP - CASTLEHILL



Figure #1

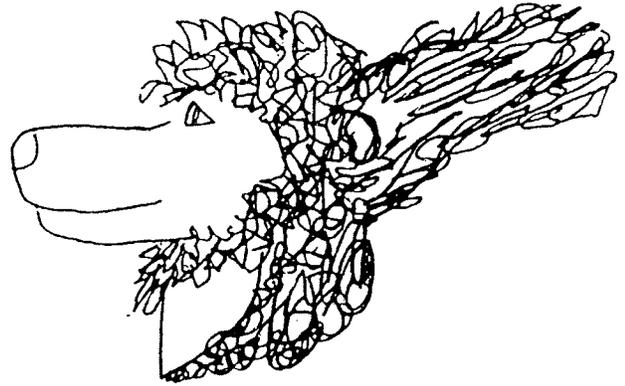


Figure #2



Figure #3



Figure #4

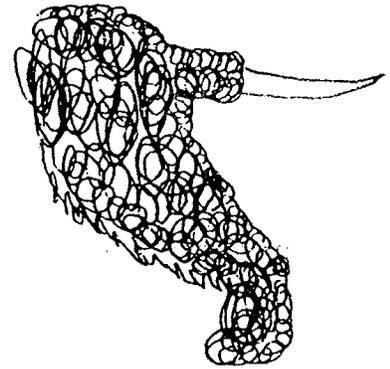


Figure #5

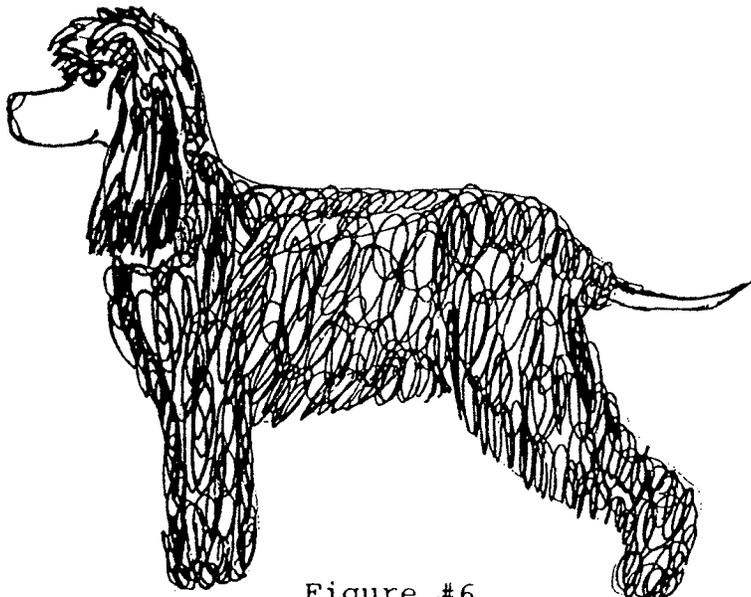


Figure #6

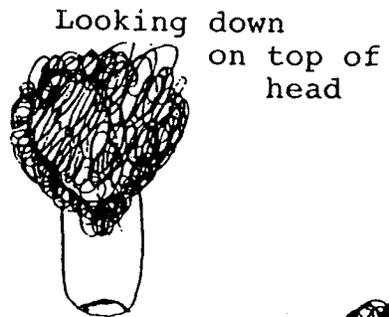


Figure #7



Figure #8