

# SHOW GROOMING

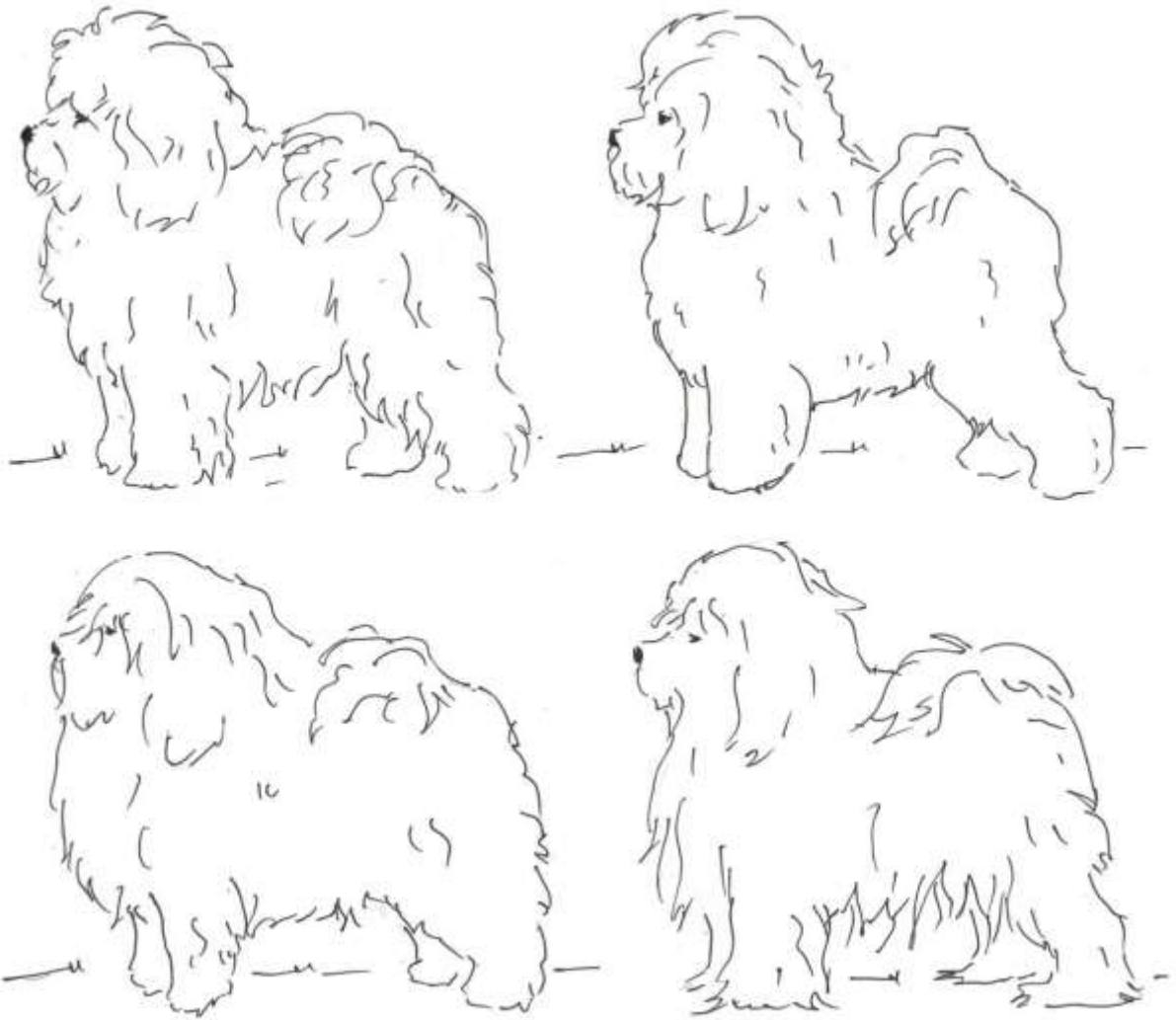
Preparazione del pelo, lavaggio e asciugatura prima dell'expo

La rifinitura

La preparazione del cane in expo

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Same dog - just different coat & coat preparation!



Lo stesso cane – ma pelo e toelettatura differenti!

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## MATERIAL

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- **Grooming jacket**
- **Grooming table, grooming arm and strap**
- **A big bath towel** to cover the table, a couple of smaller towels to dry the dog
- **Dryer with round nozzle and variable temperature**
- **Spray bottle**, to re-wet the coat
- **Pin-brush** oval, various good labels (All System, Laser Lites e tanti altri)
- **Slicker brush** – medium large, my favorite is #1 All System
- **Comb with large teething**
- **Bristle Brush** - “Mason&Pearson” nylon/bristle, small. Brush for the potato or corn starch, not too soft
- **Thinning shears** – my personal favorite is Buttercut’s “Cheetah Blender” 16,5 cm 46T(teeth)
- **Straight shears** – 14-16,5 cm.
- **Nail cutter**
- **Shampoo** type of quality shampoo chosen by the quality of the coat
- **Conditioner** – restructuring conditioner, non-oily
- **Potato and corn starch**

## WASHING, DRYING & REFINISHING

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### PREPARATION BEFOR WASHING

- All the coat should be accurately brushed eliminating any trace of tangles or foreign bodies (grass, mud and so on).

### WASHING

- Wet the coat.
- Use diluted shampoo in most cases (1 part shampoo and 20-50 parts of water). Use a sponge to apply the shampoo. This is the moment to apply also the product to clean the ears (Ear So Fresh/Ear Care), if necessary.
- If the dog is very dirty, especially with smog, make twice the shampooing. Use then less diluted shampoo or even concentrated.
- Rinse very well.

### CONDITIONER

- After the shampoo has been rinsed out well, apply all over the coat a restructuring conditioner. Don't use too much, since it could make the coat too heavy. Washing for the show normally the conditioner is rinsed out completely. However, for maintenance bath it is better to leave in a bit of conditioner.
- Don't use too heavy or oily conditioners. These leave the coat only oily and greasy and consequently the coat absorbs powder and dirt, which makes it break easily.

### BEFORE DRYING THE COAT

- Lightly towel dry the coat while the dog is still in the bathtub, especially well the legs and feet.
- Put the dog on the grooming table and brush again the coat with the pin-brush before starting the drying.

### DRYING THE COAT

#### Alternative 1

- Dry the coat very systematically, centimeter per centimeter, using a dryer with not too strong nor too hot airflow. Don't brush the coat during the drying procedure, but lift instead the coat with your fingers, so that the ringlets will reform easily.
- Once the coat is dry, lightly re-wet it by spraying it with water mixed with some conditioner (approx. one teaspoon conditioner in 0,5 liter of lukewarm water). Now let the coat dry by itself, keeping the dog in a heated room. With regular intervals lift the coat with the fingers until it has completely dried.

#### Alternative 2

- Allow the coat to dry naturally in a warm environment (in a heated room or if in summer also outside in a puppy-run paved with plastic grills or rubber mats). With regular intervals, every 3-4 minutes, control and lift the coat with your fingers until it has completely dried.

### REFINISHING

- A few days before the show, when the dog is being washed, the last refinishing work is to be done. Don't forget to check if it is necessary to cut again the nails or if the teeth need to be cleaned. Cut the coat under the paws and shape up the coat around the feet in a nice rounded form. If the tips of the coat are very brittle and uneven, it will be necessary to shape them up, but this work must be done *at least* 10-14 days, or more, before the show in order to make the coat have a natural look and shape. Clean up and cut the coat around the anus and, for the males, also the coat around the penis.

## SHOW GROOMING – at the show

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- **Body coat:** To get the desired shape, lift or squeeze lightly the coat with the pin brush – without brushing it. If necessary, to define better the ringlets, lightly spray the coat with an antistatic or with water mixed with conditioner.
- **The coat on the legs and feet.** Lift the coat with the pin brush, without really brushing, in order to get the right volume and shape. If the coat on the feet has become dirty, the dirty parts can be lightly sprayed with water, then apply potato starch which will remove the dirt. Lightly massage in the starch, leave it for some minutes and then brush it away (taking care not opening up the ringlets). This way also works well if the coat has become dirty by urine or feces.
- **Mustache/beard and around the eyes:** If the coat around the mouth has become wet, it can be buffered with potato starch which will be removed by brushing. If the coat around the eyes is wet, first dry it with a cotton disk (for make-up) and then just before entering the ring, if necessary, apply with a tiny brush a very small amount of corn starch, which will absorb the remaining humidity. Be very careful that no starch enters the eyes.