

GROOMING YOUR AUSTRALIAN SILKY TERRIER

The Silky Terrier has very fine hair - hence the name SILKY. It is similar to human hair and does not shed like other breeds. For this reason, it is important that the Silky be brushed and combed at least twice weekly to keep it tidy and free from snarls and mats.

I suggest you invest in a good quality lanolin - based shampoo, a lanolin -based conditioner, Mink oil, a natural bristle brush (not synthetic), a ball - tipped pin brush, scissors, nail clippers, hand clippers, metal comb and a fine-toothed metal comb.

BATHING:

Bath the dog in tepid water, never cold. Wet him all over then, with the good shampoo, start at the neck and work along the body to the tail, and down each leg, working up a good lather without being rough with the coat. Around the head I like to use baby shampoo as it won't irritate the eyes. Rinse 'WELL' with fresh water. Now apply conditioner, leave it on for about three minutes then rinse 'WELL' with fresh water. The conditioner helps prevent tangles and dry skin.

DRYING:

Pat and squeeze the excess water from the dog's coat with a towel, then blow dry (if the dog is left to drip dry and run free the coat will tangle and get slightly wavy) After the coat is about half dry, use the pin brush to straighten the hair, working from the centre part line down and around the legs.

TRIMMING:

The breed Standard calls for "Clean pointed", which means that the ears should be free of long hair, the muzzle be clean of long hair from the eyes to the nose with an inverted V shape between the eyes. The legs and feet from the foot to the first joint of the leg also should be free of long hair. So, using scissors and hand clippers, clean hair from this area and between the toes. Trim the nails with nail clippers often; this will stop the foot from spreading and the dog from walking on the back of its pad. If you should draw blood use some "Quick Stop"

BRUSHING CENTRE PART:

The centre part goes from forehead to the tail in a straight line. Comb the coat down each side and down each leg. Using the pure - bristle brush, brush the hair down frequently.

This will give a nice shine to it; the more you brush, the shinier the coat.
(See trimming instruction next Page!)