

Grooming Your Rough Griffon

1. Trimming the Nose Roll and tidying the head

Rough Griffons need to be regularly trimmed and groomed because they do not shed their coats. In

this article we will look at trimming the nose roll and head only. In future issues we will look at trimming other parts of the body and hand stripping for beginners

Here you see some of the basic equipment needed to groom a rough Griffon

A steel comb,

A pair of thinning scissors, with teeth as fine as possible,

Rubber Thumb stalls (if you want to hand strip)

A three way stripping knife (if you want to



hand strip)

A coarse pumice block

Plus a non-slip surface for the Griffon to stand on in comfort.

The hair on the nose needs to be kept short so that it does not irritate the eyes

1. Start with the face. The hair in and above the nose roll should be kept short or it can irritate the dogs eyes, causing infections and possibly even eye ulcers. As can be seen this girl has very long hair above her

nose. 1st comb it out.



2. Use your thinning scissors and gently trim the hair. Always use blunt tipped scissors and always start from underneath the eye from the side. In this way the dog will not be alarmed.

3. Gently but firmly hold your dog' head under the chin to keep the

head still while you trim. Sometimes gently gripping the beard will also help





4. Now that you have trimmed the nose, you can now check the long hair on the top of the head. Ideally the hair on the head will be short but not shaved. You can scissor this hair with your thinning scissors or you can gently strip it out. Stripping should never hurt as you are only removing dead hair. If it hurts then you are pulling too much hair at once or you are pulling it from the base instead of the tips- both are wrong techniques

5. To strip gently pull the hair up and spread it with your fingers. Grip the very tips of the hair only as can be seen in this picture. Then pull the hair gently but firmly. If it is ready to come it will come straight out. If it is not ready it will not come and you should not force it as it can hurt the dog



6. Do not do this. Do not grip a clump of hair together to pull as it will hurt the dog- you must always spread the hair out before pulling as in the picture above.

7. It may help to wear rubber grips or finger condoms to help you grip the hair as you pull.



8 The finished head-tyd and neat with the soft Griffon expression. The hair is now away from the eyes so that they will not be irritated and weep. Compare this with the head at the top of the page before trimming.