

Grooming the Boykin Spaniel *By: Patricia Watts*



Cocoa - before...

I believe that the Boykin Spaniel, as a hunting dog, must have a "show cut" which will allow it to come out of the field and go directly into the showing, without a lot of muss and fuss. This grooming standard will do that. I am open to any suggestions which might improve this grooming standard for the Boykin Spaniel breed.

Equipment Needed:

- Steel Comb • Cotton Balls
- Slicker Brush • Ear Cleaner
- Ear Dryer • Curved scissors
- Thinning Shears
- Coat Conditioner
- Nail Clipper (guillotine type)
- Clipper (Andis/Wahl) #4, #8.5 & #10 blades
- Stripping Knife

1. Brush the coat with a slicker brush to remove any dead hair or mats. Comb the coat after brushing.
2. Ear Cleaning: If really dirty, flush the ear with a quality ear cleaner and wipe earflap clean with cotton balls. Use cotton balls dampened with ear cleaner to remove any wax buildup inside the ear folds. Always use a drying agent to rinse and dry out the ear canal. Do not pluck any ear hairs. Trim away any long hairs with curved, blunt shears.
3. Cut the nails with a guillotine-type nail clipper or grinder like a dremel tool, removing only the tips of the nails to avoid cutting the quick.
4. Bathe and towel dry. Do not cage dry.
5. Comb through the coat thoroughly after drying.
6. Clip hair away from the rectal area (about half an inch on either side of the rectum) with a #10 blade. Never

put the blade in direct contact with the rectum. Clip hair from the stomach area (from the groin to the navel) using a #10 blade.

7. Clip the face with a #8.5 or #10 blade going with the grain. If the dog is very thick coated, use the #8.5 blade against the grain. Clip the top of the head with a #4 blade. Clip over the skull to the base around the ear to the lower edge of the base of the ear.

8. Clip the cheek back to the corner of the ear with the 8.5 blade. From the stop, clip the foreface forward against the grain. Then clip down the sides of the muzzle.

9. Clip the top third of the underside of the ear using a #8.5 or #10 blade. Remove any straggly hair from above the ears with thinning shears.... blending down into the spaniel curls to keep the length.

10. Clip the underjaw to the throat forming a "U" shape at the throat from ear to ear and down to the sternum. Stretch the lower lip back and clean the flews of the lip with the clipper using the #10 blade.

11. Back comb and use thinning shears down the backline to the tail....do not clean out the entire body

area, just even out the coat. Then blend down the sides with thinning shears so that the coat will lie nicely against the body. Using thinning shears trim the underchest if necessary, following the contours of the body.

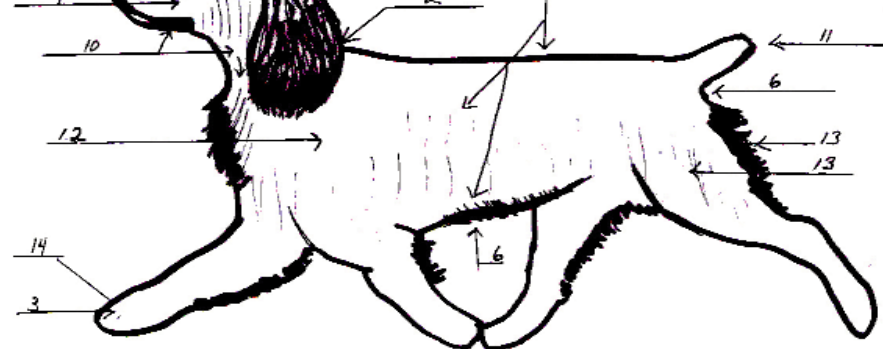
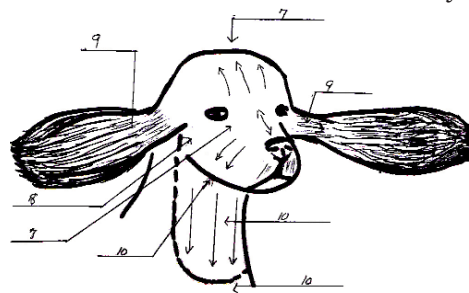
12. Blend any uneven hair/curls on the shoulder into the leg featherings using thinning shears.

13. Blend in any uneven hair/curls on the hindquarters into the rear leg featherings using thinning shears.

14. Remove any hair from between the toes and pads of the feet with curved shears. Use a bristle brush to backcomb the hair on the top of the foot and use thinning shears to thin out hair to obtain the "cat paw" appearance. Scissors around the outside edges of the feet to round them off.

15. Spray conditioner lightly onto the coat. Use a steel comb to comb the coat conditioner through the coat.

Note: The ears should be cleaned weekly since Spaniels are prone to ear infections. The nails should be checked monthly to see if they need clipping.



Cocoa - after!!!

Waggin' Tails ...



Lucy, Tucker and Luke on their snow-bank. We had a total of three feet. Tucker just loves playing in the snow.
- Mary Whitney, NH



Pre-flight Jumper Chuck & Maureen Griffin, VA



“Texas Trace Bailey” pictured training at 8 months. “She has a great nose and loves the water and is also being broke of snakes.”

- Tom Fowler, Bellevue, WA.



“Skeeter Bassmaster Sills”
1 1/2 years
Sean and Martha Sue Sills, Metter, GA

