



# Poodle Care and Grooming

For the Companion Pet Owner

Michele Harvey

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# Birth to Coat Change

During this period, the coat doesn't require a lot of upkeep. Simple bathing and brushing will keep your poodle smelling and looking nice.

Grooming is a great bonding exercise and done right, helps to build trust with your pup.

Depending on how much grooming you plan to do later in your pup's life, these efforts will make the process much less stressful for all. If you are going to start grooming at home right away, you may also want to shave the face, feet and sani areas.

And finally, you will need to keep nails trimmed and smooth.

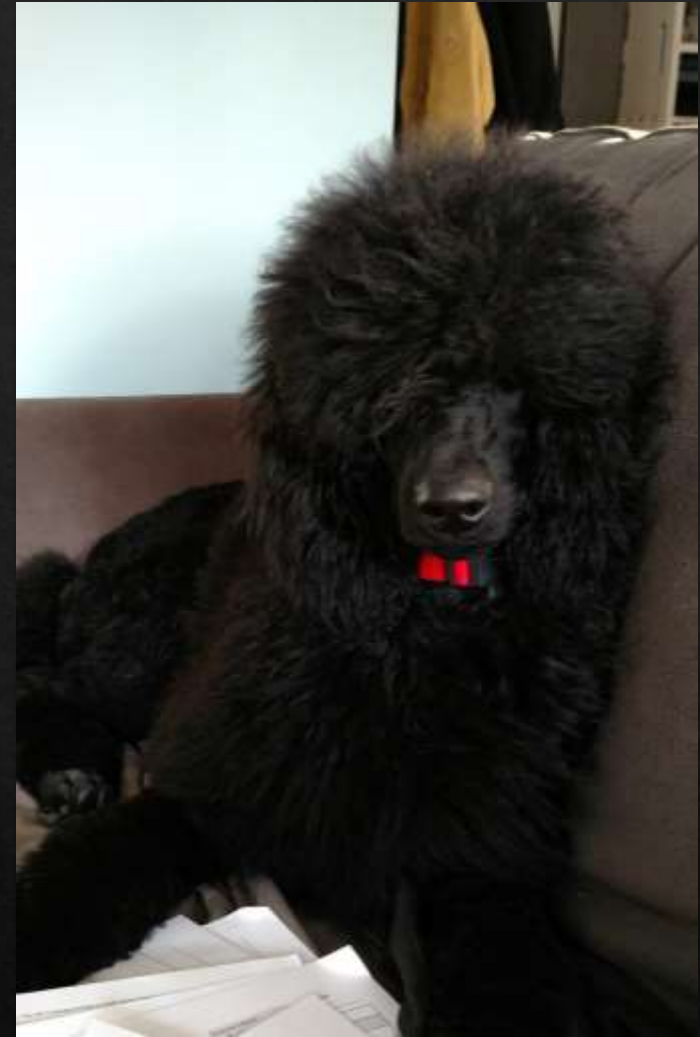




# Eye Care

Some poodles have food sensitivities and/or seasonal allergies, but all poodles will get goopy eyes if hair irritates the inner lid or eye. You can rinse with sterile saline or a canine eye rinse. Keep the bottle away from the eye so that you don't contaminate your whole bottle.

Sometimes, the goop has time to dry and you want to be careful you do not pull out the hair that it may be embedded in. You can use a warm, wet washcloth or cotton wipe (e.g. makeup remover cotton pads) to remove them. Eye wipes made for dog eyes also work well. There are also products that may help *slide* the dried crusties off the hair shafts.



# Ear Care

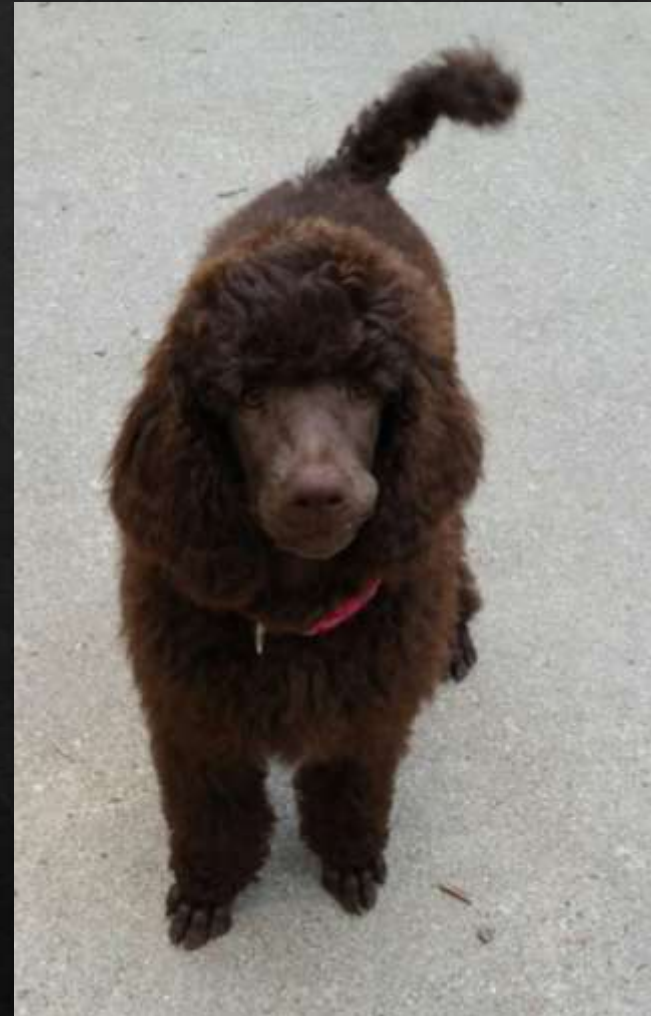
Many poodles have thick hair, even inside their ears! And on top of that, they often have long ear flaps with thick and long hair covering them.

Air flow to the ear canal needs to be maintained through trimming or plucking - a personal choice. If the dog is not accustomed to regular plucking, this process is more likely to open up the pores and cause irritation, triggering an ear infection. These can usually be treated at home, especially if caught early, but sometimes require veterinarian care.

## **Trimming:**

Invest in quality round tip scissors.

Optional: wear a headlamp to see into the canal and ear crevices.



# Ear Care

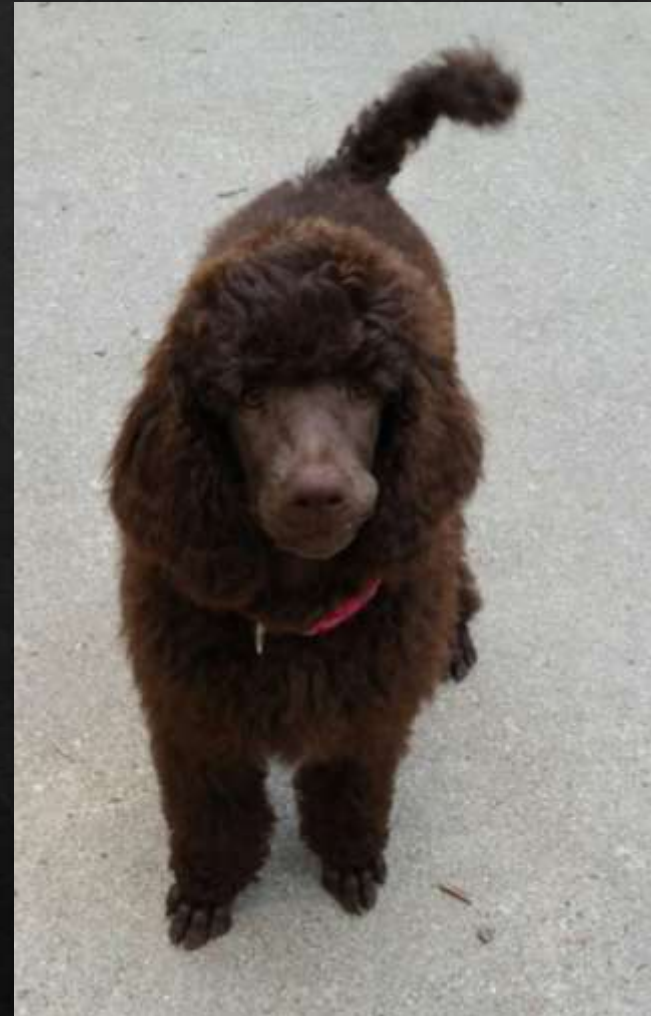
## **Choosing to Pluck:**

Regular plucking desensitizes the ear and reduces irritation in many, but not all, cases.

A dry ear powder may help you in removing the ear hair by finger plucking or using hemostats. As a side benefit, it will also absorb some of the moisture in the ear.

## **Cleaning:**

Ear cleaning products can remove any built up debris and wax from the ear. Some cleaners even have products to reduce the bacteria, promote healing, and evaporate moisture in the ear.





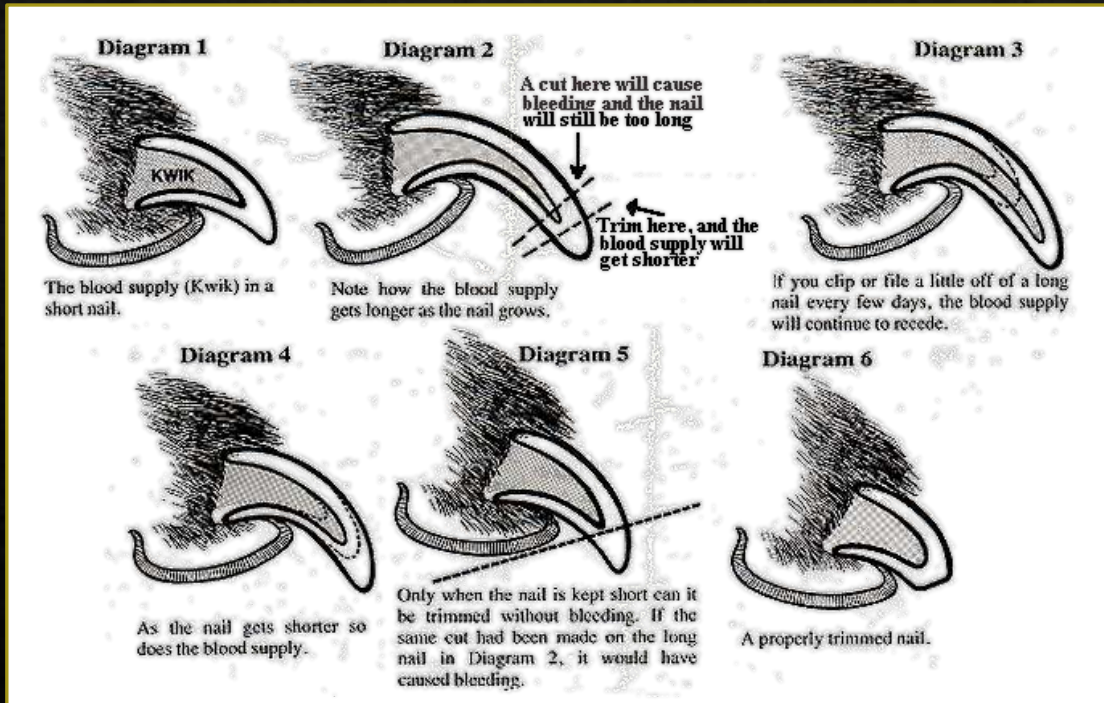


# Nail Care

Dog nails have blood flowing through them; this area is called 'the quick'. There are two ways to shorten the nails; trimming/cutting or grinding/sanding. If you choose to cut the nail you will want a product on hand that stops bleeding; if you trim too short, the nail may bleed. Alternately, you may use a rotary tool like a Dremel and a grinding or sanding bit to remove nail ends. Pay close attention to the heat created in the nail, especially with sanding drums.

Nails need to be kept short. If your poodle's nails have been allowed to grow to the point that you hear them 'clicking' on the floor, you may have to shorten them every 3 to 4 days until they are the proper length since you don't want to take too much off at one time. The quick will recede each time so you don't have to worry about hurting the dog or the nail bleeding as long as you don't go too far.

You should be able to see the nail color and texture change as you grind or trim the tip of nail back. When grinding, you can stop and test it frequently; you will be able to feel the nail get softer in the middle and this is a good indicator of the stopping point.



Click on the images for the source which may include more info

# Puppy Coat Care



- ◆ As mentioned earlier, puppy coats need very little care. Puppies may or may not need to be brushed, but this is the best time to desensitize them to it. Early brushing and bathing will set everyone up for success down the road when the dog needs grooming *at least* every 6-8 weeks. It can also be used as bonding one-on-one time, or a relaxation (pre-bedtime) exercise. Use a soft brush, preferably a pin brush with rounded pin ends that won't 'poke' their skin and slow, soothing strokes.
- ◆ **Bath:** You can apply ear cleaner to a cotton ball and push it into the ear canal. This will keep water from flowing into the ear canal and will also muffle the sound of the dryer. Use a good shampoo product for animals, similar to Johnson's Baby Shampoo for humans, that will not irritate the eyes. If not available, use your hands to apply shampoo around the head and muzzle, keeping a good measure from the eyes and nose. Scrub to the skin, and make sure to get the hair between the pads of the feet, and around the sanitary areas. Rinse **THOROUGHLY** as any residue could irritate the skin for days.



# Puppy Coat Care



- ◆ Wrap the pup in towels. This is a good time to teach him or her to lay quietly on the grooming table and allow the towels to soak up water for 10-20 minutes to speed up drying time (later, it will also be easier to dry the hair straight while brushing if the poodle is laying down).
- ◆ Remove the towels and dry the hair using a high velocity or other grooming dryer. In a pinch, a human dryer will work but it may take considerably more time depending on the length and thickness of the coat. Do not move the dryer back and forth or up and down (fast, like flicking). Instead, slowly move in a line. If you see hair start to swirl, back the dryer away from the skin and slow down so you don't create mats with your drying technique.
- ◆ Dry the hair completely.
- ◆ From the outside of the ear, rub the cotton ball in the ear to help loosen and remove buildup, then remove from the ear canal.
- ◆ If there are any mats, brush/comb them out now.



# Shaving the Poodle

[Andis Grooming](#) - poodle feet

[Andis Grooming](#) - poodle faces

[Andis Grooming](#) - sanitary trims

[Andis Blade and Guard Comb Guide for Poodles](#)



Image: <https://www.ijemr.net>

[10 Tips for Using Clippers at Home](#)

# The Dreaded Coat Change







# The Dreaded Coat Change

When your poodle starts changing from puppy to adult coat, you will most likely experience a change in the frequency you will need to brush to remove mats. It often seems to happen overnight - and until coat change is done, your pup will likely need to be brushed daily. Excessive brushing damages coat, so finding the right combination of products and techniques can make a huge difference. The only way to completely avoid it, is to trim the dog short.

There are some conditioning products on the market that may extend the period between grooms and brushings. Every poodle's coat is different, and combined with the water quality in which they are bathed, what works for one poodle may not work for another. Try samples of products, if you can, before buying a large supply.

Work from the outside in to remove mats. There are many options for dematting products on the market. If the dog is going right into the bath, or outside to play, simple cornstarch can be used as a dematting product that you may already have in your pantry. Use a brush or comb designed to remove mats. Do NOT use a comb with cutting blades. While these may work in certain circumstances, you probably don't want to end up with missing chunks of hair in your dog's coat.

# Standard Poodle Grooming

01

TIP #1: NEVER  
COMB OR BRUSH A  
COMPLETELY DRY  
COAT. USE A  
BRUSHING SPRAY.

02

TIP #2: NEVER  
COMB OR BRUSH A  
WET COAT. WAIT  
UNTIL IT IS NEARLY  
OR FULLY DRY.

03

TIP #3: NEVER  
GROOM WHILE  
THE PUP IS OVERLY  
TIRED OR OVERLY  
STIMULATED.



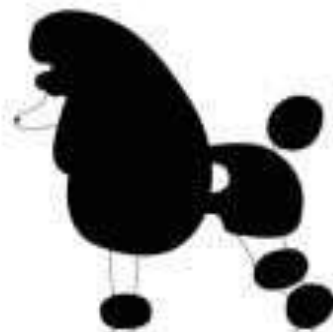


Image Source: [Reddit.com](#)

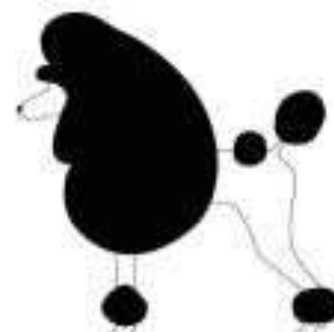
# At Home Poodle Grooming

**Give yourself GRACE**

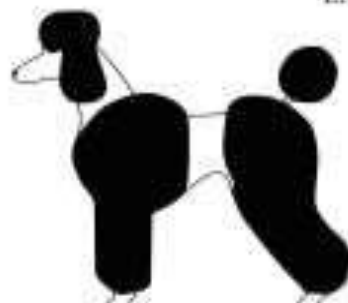
Beginners are not experts and even professionals are not perfect. Relax and take it in small steps.



ENGLISH SADDLER



CONTINENTAL



TOWN AND COUNTRY



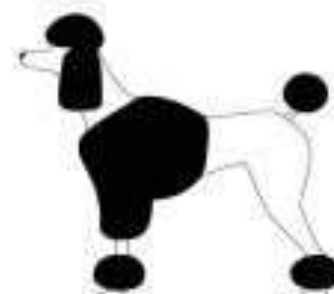
TEDDY BEAR



PUPPY



MIAMI



LION



LAMB



KENNEL



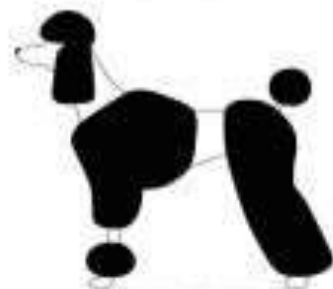
JACKET AND PANTS



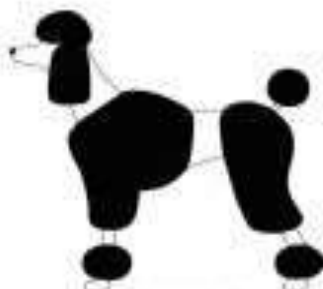
GERMAN



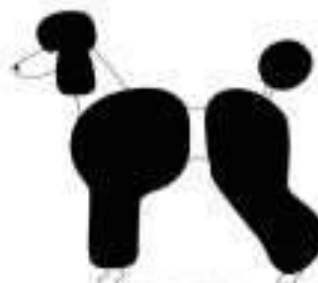
FOX



FIFTH AVENUE



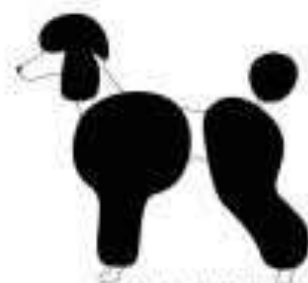
BOLERO



DUTCH



BELL BOTTOM



CHICAGO DUTCH



## Adult Trims



### CLIPPERS

- ◇ Adult trims require clippers and some styles will also require shears
- ◇ Clipper Blades – 15, 10, and 7F or 4F (longest)
- ◇ Guard Combs – Metal (not plastic) for poodles (allows even longer lengths of hair over body than the finish blades)

### SHEARS (Scissors)

- ◇ Straight Shears – ears, neck, jacket or body
- ◇ Curved Shears – top knots, bracelets, rosettes, tails
- ◇ Chunkers – (optional) smoothing, especially the jacket

# Products

These are examples only; there are many options available.



# Eye Care



In the bath, crusties slide right out of the hair.

Great for on-the-go



# Ear Care

Isopropyl Alcohol,  
Boric Acid, Gentian  
Violet and Colloidal  
Silver





# Nail Care



Diamond tip

Dremel tip

The Dremel on the left has two speeds and is gentler (good for puppies). It comes with a battery pack and wall charger.

The Dremel on the right has 5 speeds and can get through thick, adult nails more quickly. It has a USB charger.

# Products - Brushes

Neck and Topline  
Brush



Less Damaging to Coat

Slicker Brushes – Body, Rosettes,  
Bracelets, and Tail



Fewer pins  
Good for Dematting

More dense and long pins  
Good for normal brushing

Small for Bracelets and  
Large for Body

Slicker – Straight Brushing  
with Heat



Soft, dense pins for straightening  
while drying



# Products - Brushes

More Details on the CC Slicker Brushes

## Chris Christensen Big G Long Pin Slicker Brush ... dense Big K Long Pin Slicker Brush ... sparse



### Big G ... dense

Big G has 40% More Pins than Big K

**Big G - When to use it:**

*To fluff curly, cottony coats, and to fluff and shape heads, topline, and legs of many breeds*

*To work through dense coats all the way to the root*

*To remove thick undesirable undercoat in many breeds*

*Use Large on body and Medium on legs, columns and poms*

Big G Large      Item AVIICL  
Big G Medium    Item AVIICM

### Big K ... sparse

The Big K was originally designed for the unique needs of the Black Russian Terrier, but there are dozens of breeds that need this brush! *Does the job in half the time!*

**Big K - When to use it:**

*To detangle and remove knots in long and difficult to manage coats*

*To get down to the root and remove hard-to-reach undercoat*

*To thin and separate hairs throughout the coat creating lift and volume*

*Use Large on torso and Medium on furnishings*

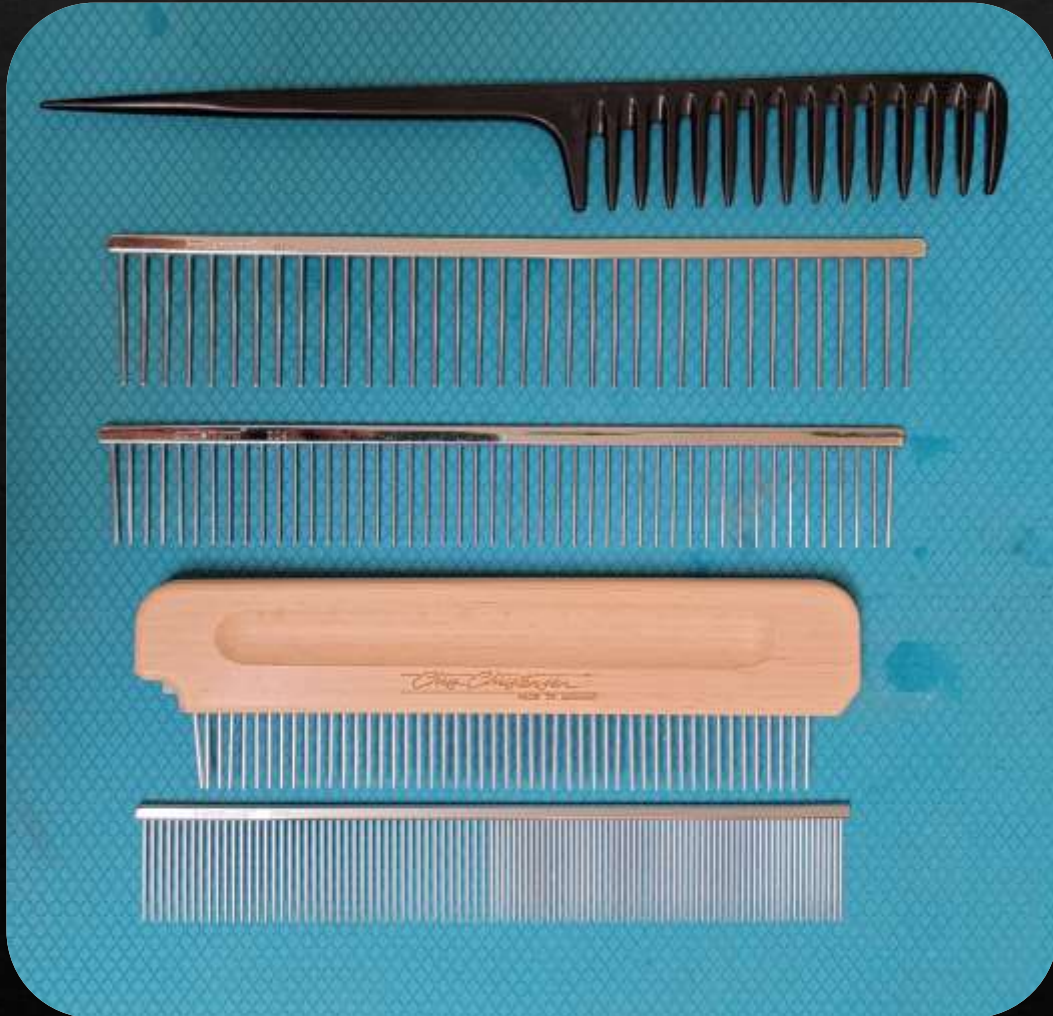
Big K Large      Item AVIIBL  
Big K Medium    Item AVIIBM

### Both the Big K and Big G:

- Long Pins to penetrate deep into longer coats
- Special Pin Bend creates lift and movement, to pick up more coat
- Flexible Cushion, our signature flexible cushion is gentle and forgiving
- Extreme Curved Back to allow more control, movement and direction
- Extra Long Ergonomic Handle reduces hand and arm fatigue



# Products - Combs



Banding or Wrapping: Rat tail comb – use plastic tail for thick, dense coats and metal for thin, fine coats

Fluffing and Dematting: Coarse Long Tooth Poodle Comb – approximately 5 teeth per inch and 1.5 inch long teeth

Fluffing and Dematting: Coarse Poodle Comb – approximately 7.5 teeth per inch and 1 inch long

Dematting: Coarse Comb

Fluffing: Fine / Extra Fine Tooth Comb

# Clippers

Clipper Burn  
Treatment





# Clippers – Guard Combs and Specialty Blades





# Shears



8" Curves

8" Straight

7" Curves

7" Straight

Chunkers

Thinners

Scissor Oil



# Shampoos, Conditioners, Treatments



Source: CC website

All coats are different!  
Find the products that  
work best for your  
poodle and water supply.

Ultra Crème Conditioner  
is great during coat  
change, making the coat very  
soft, but requires  $\pm$   
10 minutes soaking in the tub.

Secret Weapon is pricey  
and can be hard to  
acquire but is added to the  
shampoo (one less step) and  
also reduces drying time.



Source: Chewy website



Source: [www.canadiangroomingdistributor.com](http://www.canadiangroomingdistributor.com)