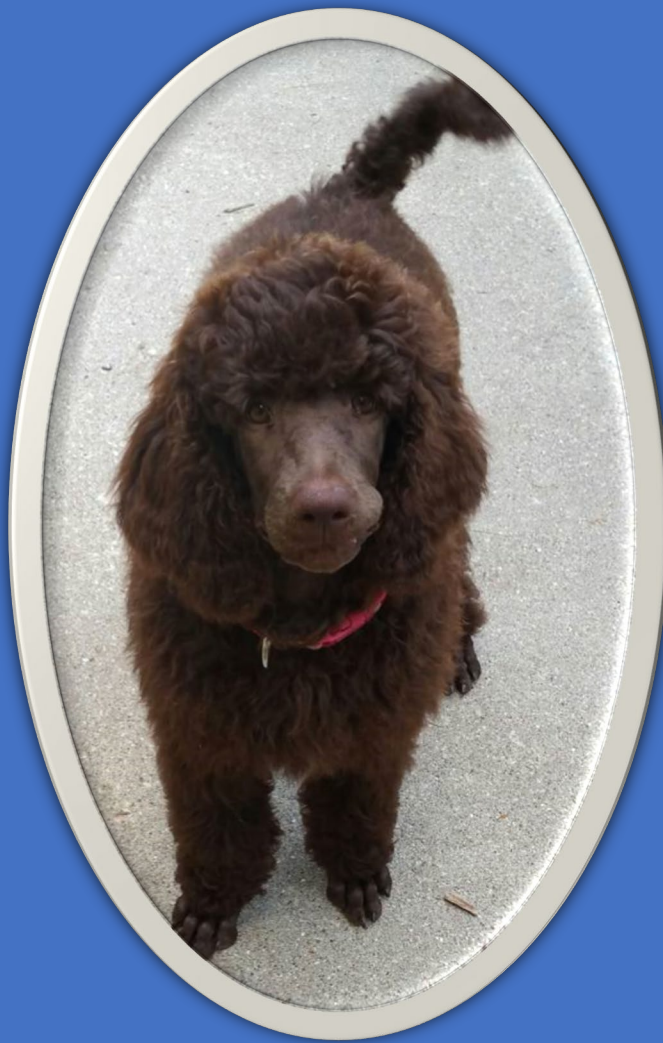


Poodle Coat Care and Grooming for the Companion Pet Owner



Standard Poodles of Forest Lakes, LLC

Poodle Care and Grooming for the Companion Pet Owner

Poodles are known for their elegant, curly coats and striking appearance, but maintaining their coat and overall health requires dedicated grooming practices. This chapter covers essential techniques and tools for effective poodle care and grooming, from birth through adulthood. By following these steps, owners can ensure that their poodles stay comfortable, healthy, and beautifully groomed.

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.

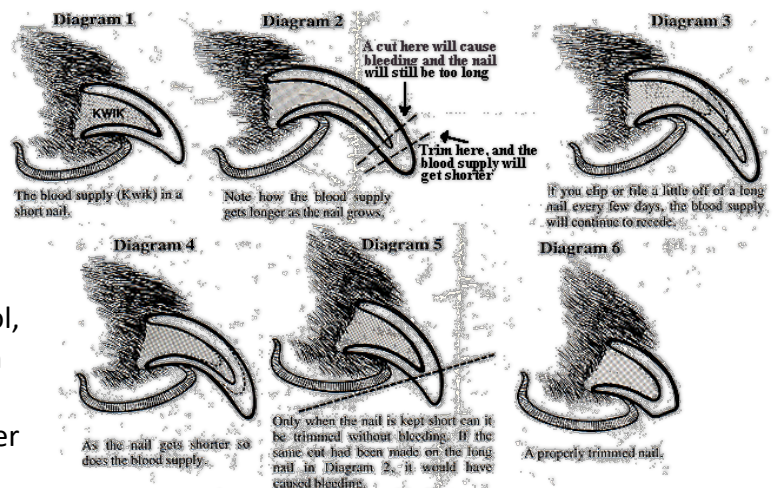
Grooming is a great bonding exercise and done right, helps to build trust with your pup. Depending on how much grooming you plan to do later in your pup's life, these efforts will make the process much less stressful for all. If you are going to start grooming at home right away, you may also want to shave the face, feet and sanitary areas. And finally, you will need to keep nails trimmed and smooth.



Nail Care

Poodles need regular nail care to prevent overgrowth, discomfort, and potential injury. The nail contains a blood vessel called “the quick,” so it's important to trim carefully to avoid cutting into this area.

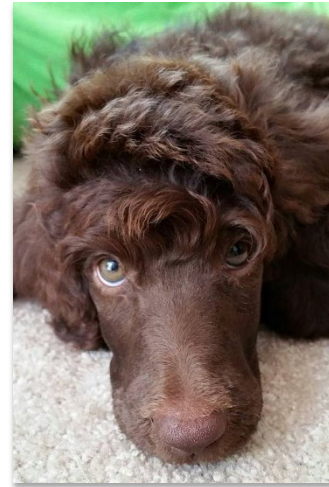
- **Trimming Techniques:** Owners can either clip or grind their poodle's nails. When clipping, have a product on hand to stop bleeding in case the quick is accidentally nicked. A rotary tool, like a Dremel, is often used with a sanding bit to smooth out the nails, which can provide a gentler option.
- **Frequency and Length:** Trim nails every 3-4 days if they've grown too long, as this helps the quick recede gradually. Stop grinding or clipping once the nail feels softer, as this indicates proximity to the quick.



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.

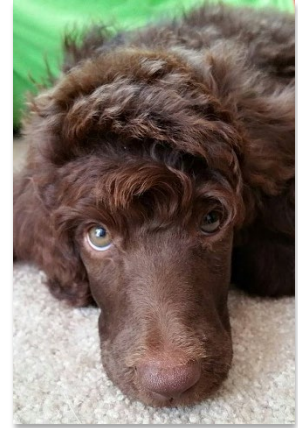


- **Trimming:**
 - Invest in quality round tip scissors.
 - Optional: wear a headlamp to see into the canal and ear crevices.
- **Choosing to Pluck:**
 - Regular plucking desensitizes the ear and reduces irritation in many, but not all, cases.
 - A dry ear powder may help you in removing the ear hair 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.

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. With some thick cotton balls, you may actually need to unwind it to get it to go into the 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.



- ❖ 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.

Brushing and Combing Tips

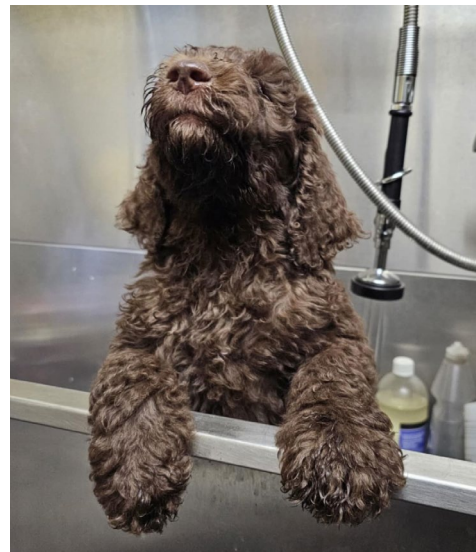
To prevent matting and maintain coat health, regular brushing and combing are essential.

- **Brushing Spray:** Never brush or comb a dry coat or a completely wet coat, as this can lead to breakage. Use a brushing spray to protect the hair shaft and make brushing easier.
- **Avoid Grooming While Overstimulated:** Groom when the puppy is calm and relaxed. A tired or overly stimulated dog may resist grooming, making the experience stressful for both puppy and owner.

Bathing

Bathing keeps the poodle's coat clean, but it should be done carefully to avoid irritating their skin.

- **Removing "Crusties":** During a bath, buildup like "eye crusties" can be gently removed from the coat.
- **Grooming Tools:** Certain tools and brushes are designed specifically for poodle coats, such as soft, dense pins for straightening while drying, or smaller brushes for detailed areas like the legs and paws.



Essential Grooming Tools

Using the right tools can make a significant difference in coat health and ease of grooming:

- **Dremel for Nails:** Select a Dremel model based on your dog's needs. For puppies, use a lower-speed Dremel, while adults may benefit from a higher-speed option to quickly get through thicker nails.

- **Slicker Brushes:** These come in various densities and sizes, tailored to tasks like dematting, fluffing, and general brushing. Smaller brushes are ideal for legs and small areas, while larger ones suit the body.

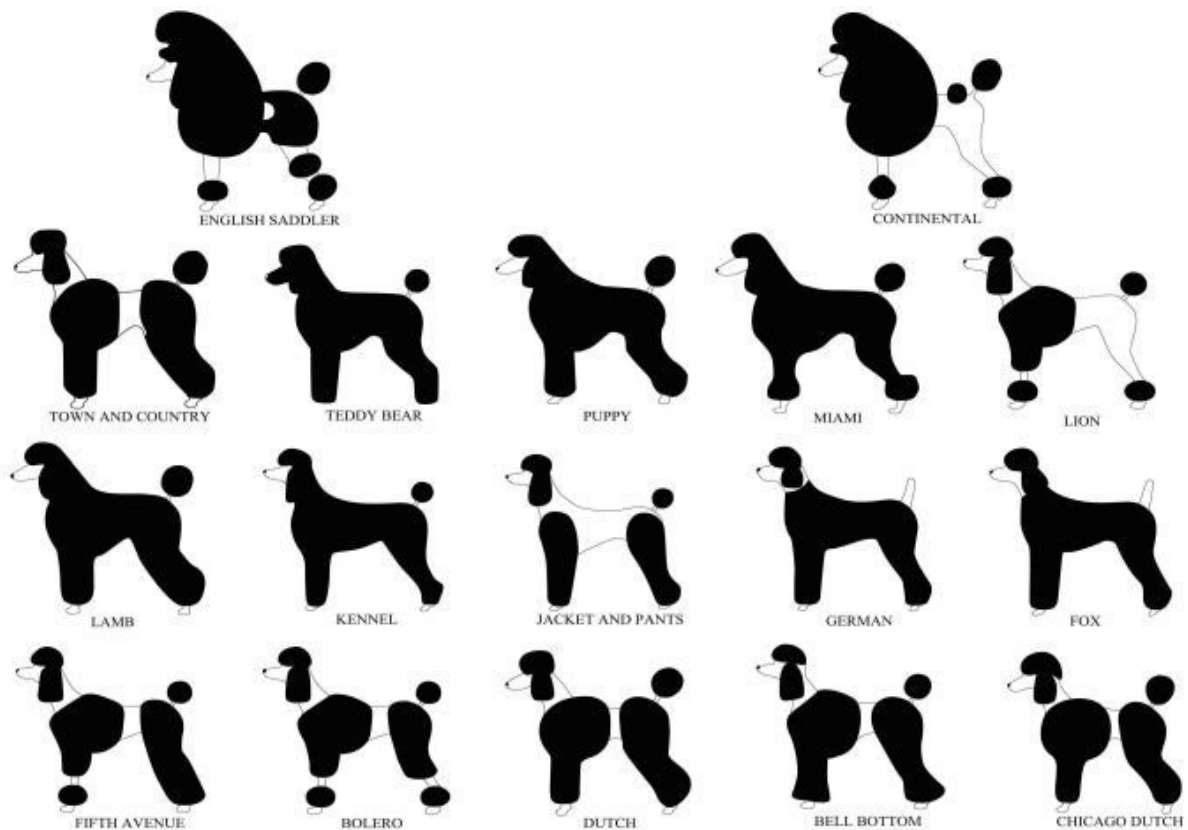
Comb Types for Poodles

Different combs offer various benefits depending on the coat's condition and stage of growth:

- **Coarse Poodle Comb:** Good for fluffing and detangling. Choose combs with long teeth for coat changes or densely matted areas.
- **Fine Tooth Comb:** Ideal for finishing touches and ensuring smoothness, especially when drying the coat.

Shaving and Trimming

Poodle Trims



Proper trimming requires quality clippers and blades designed for poodle coats, as well as attention to prevent discomfort:

- **Clipper Tips:** Avoid clipper burn by choosing the right blade length for your poodle's coat type and texture. Start with guard combs for uniform length, then move to specialty blades for specific areas.
 - [Andis Grooming](#) - poodle feet
 - [Andis Grooming](#) - poodle faces
 - [Andis Grooming](#) - sanitary trims
 - [Andis Blade and Guard Comb Guide for Poodles](#)
 - [10 Tips for Using Clippers at Home](#)

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):** For finishing work, curved and straight scissors, as well as chunkers and thinners, help refine the look of adult trims and maintain symmetry.
 - Straight Shears – ears, neck, jacket or body
 - Curved Shears – top knots, bracelets, rosettes, tails
 - Chunkers and/or Thinners – (optional) smoothing, especially the jacket

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.

At Home Poodle Grooming

Give yourself GRACE

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

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.

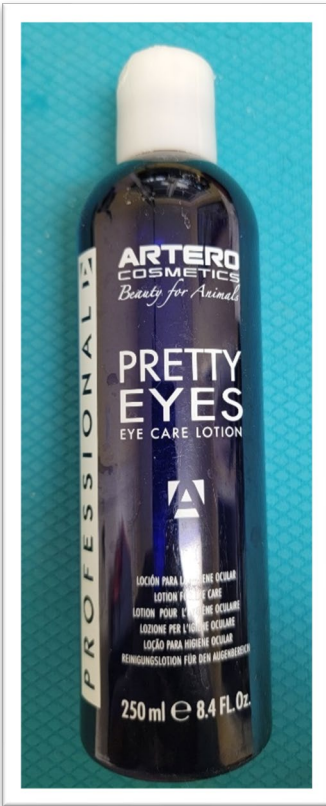
Additional Care Tips

Regular attention to poodle-specific grooming needs ensures a balanced, healthy coat and supports general well-being.

- **Shampoos and Conditioners:** Choose products based on coat needs. During coat changes, conditioners like SOOS Dead Sea Spa **Ultra Crème Conditioner** help maintain softness and prevent matting.
- **Conditioning Products:** High-quality conditioners, such as Secret Weapon, reduce drying time and make the coat more manageable, especially during intensive grooming periods.

With the right techniques, tools, and grooming routines, poodle owners can maintain a beautiful and healthy coat while enhancing their dog's comfort and well-being. Each stage of a poodle's life brings unique grooming challenges, but with consistent care, these routines become a rewarding part of the bond between owner and poodle.

Eye Care Products



Pretty Eyes applied at the beginning of a bath makes crusties slide right out with the rinse water.

Wipes are great for on the go!



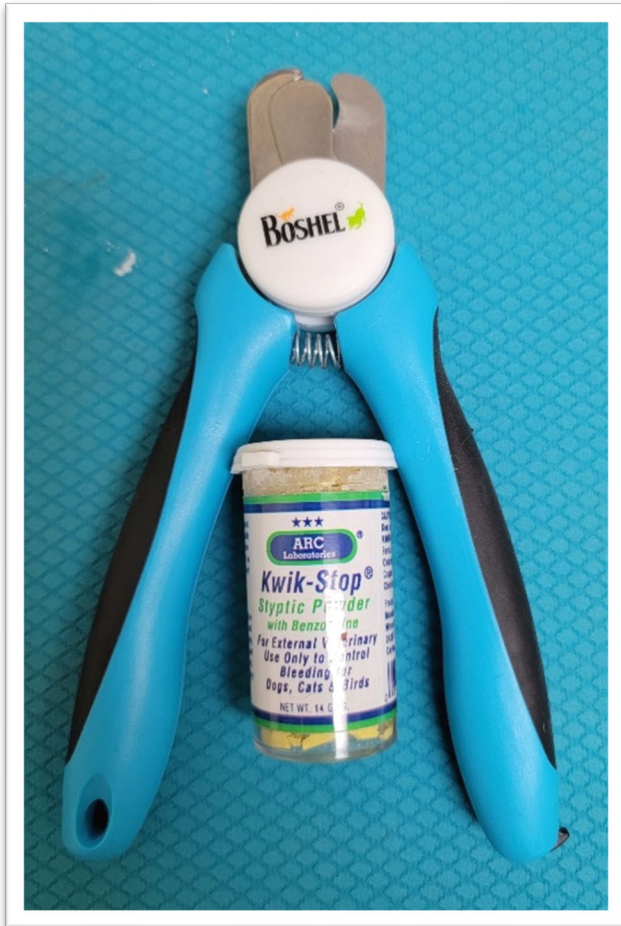
Ear Care Products



Isopropyl Alcohol,
Boric Acid, Gentian
Violet and Colloidal
Silver



Nail Care Products



There are many different styles of nail clippers, even ones that have lights to indicate the quick.

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.



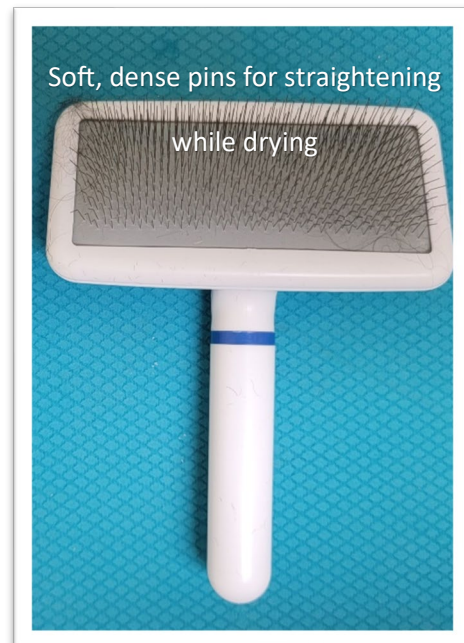
Coat Care Products – Brushes



The oval pin brush is useful for neck and topline, longer hair.

Slickers are used for Body, Rosettes, Bracelets and Tail.

Short pin slickers are good for straight brushing with heat.



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, toplines, 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

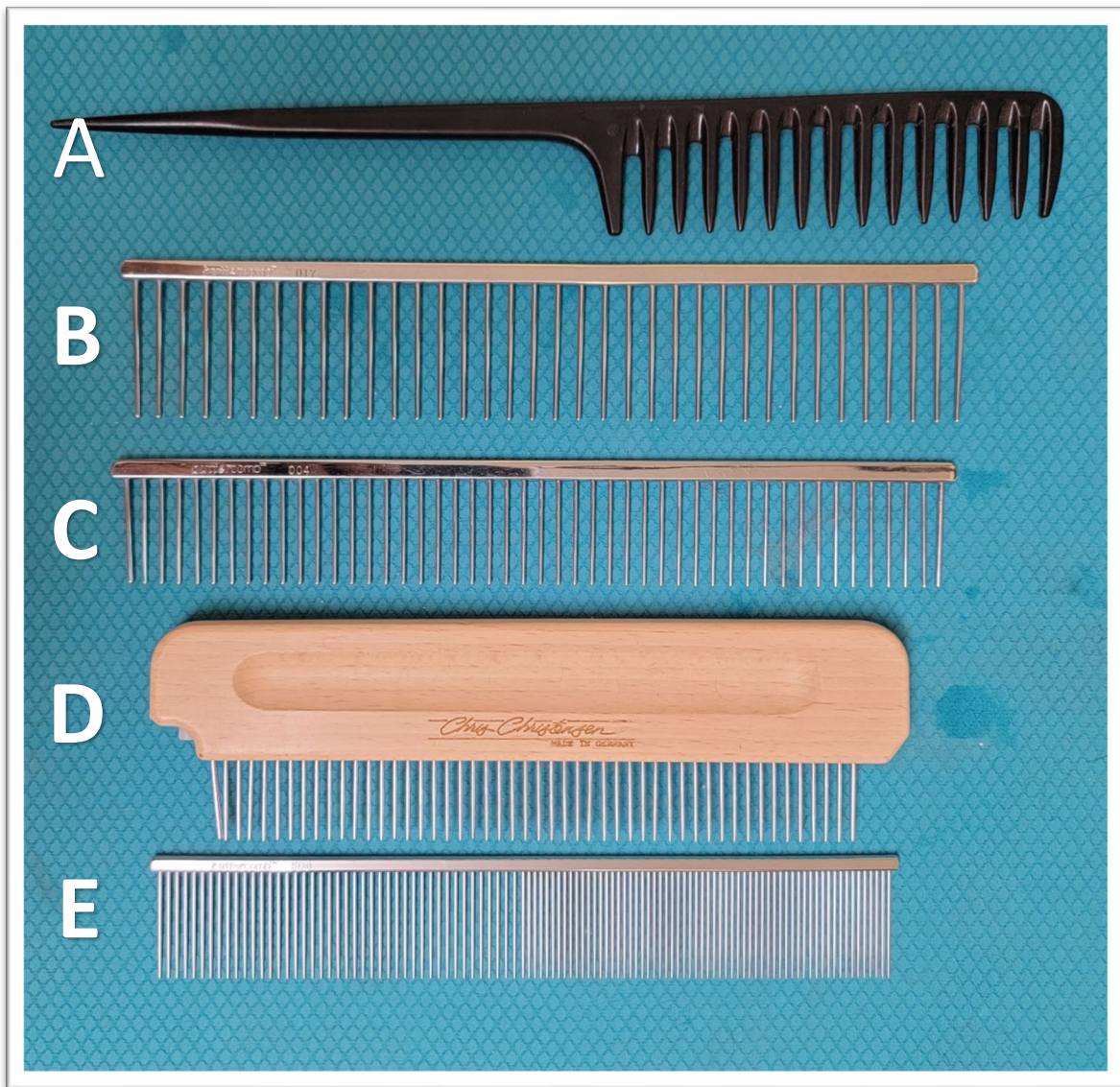
Flexible Cushion, our signature flexible cushion is gentle and forgiving

Extreme Curved Back to allow more control, movement and direction

Extra Long Ergonomic Handle reduces hand and arm fatigue

Coat Care Products – Combs

- A. Banding or Wrapping: Rat tail comb – use plastic tail for thick, dense coats and metal for thin, fine coats
- B. Fluffing and Dematting: Coarse Long Tooth Poodle Comb – approximately 5 teeth per inch and 1.5 inch long teeth
- C. Fluffing and Dematting: Coarse Poodle Comb – approximately 7.5 teeth per inch and 1 inch long
- D. Dematting: Coarse Comb
- E. Fluffing: Fine / Extra Fine Tooth Comb



Coat Care Products – Clippers

Corded clippers and exchangeable blades



Products for cleaning and lubricating blades for longer life



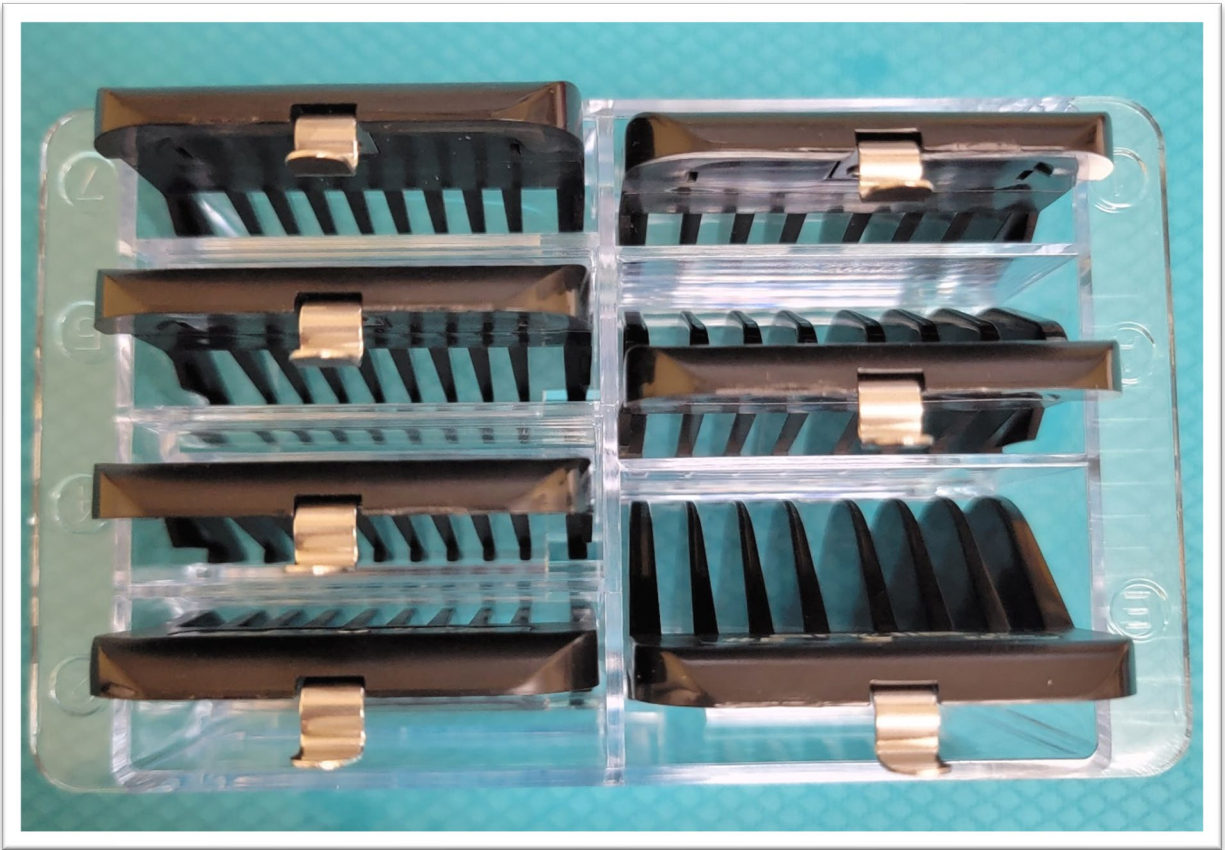
Cordless Clippers – small for toy varieties or for small parts like toes on minis and standards.



Products to alleviate clipper burn



Clipper Guard Combs and Specialty Blades



Shears





Dental Products

