



Tips for Grooming your Pet Pomeranian

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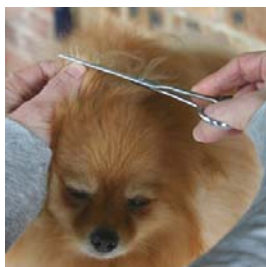
Please note - This article is for education purpose only, it is not an illustration of grooming for the show ring. Choice of shampoo, coat care and trimming differ substantially from this advice when preparing a Pom for the show ring. There are several useful videos by professional Pomeranian Breeders that demonstrate techniques of show cuts. This article is for education purpose only.



The Unfinished Pom

Start by washing your Pom - there are several grooming products available but I personally use whatever shampoo I like the smell of from the supermarket. Take care not to get water in the eyes, nose or ears. Cotton balls can be placed inside the ears to protect them from water.

After bathing, I towel dry the hair as much as I can you can buy super absorbent towels which are great for this purpose. I then blow dry the Pom - brushing all the hair in an upward motion towards the head with a soft slicker brush. You can get special dryers for dogs - I use a Metro Airforce Commander Blaster dryer. You can also use a human hair dryer, just be sure to put it on a low heat so you don't aggravate the skin or dry the hair out.



I always start with the head - ear tips first. This is possibly the hardest part as first of all you must make sure you do not cut the ear. Best way to protect it is by pinching the ear leather in between your forefinger and thumb so that you don't cut it by mistake.

The excess hairs will protrude above your fingers and you want a horizontal angle across the top - not the best picture (far left) but basically scissors are parallel to the Pom's eyes. This is followed by a slightly tilted angle for your 2nd cut (middle photo). This shapes the ears into a softer angle and prevents them from looking too pointy. After doing the ears - brush the hair around the head forward (far right).



Now try and visualize a circle which frames their head and cut the excess hair away to reveal the circular shape. Take care round the ears - I often use my fingers as guides when the scissors are pointed in what could be a dangerous position if the Pom suddenly leapt forward.



Keep the circular shape in your mind and keep trimming it. Brush the featherings out by the shoulder (far right) - look at them straight on and trim them away - this will keep the circular shape when looking head on and the coat will look more buoyant and less heavy in that area.



Brush all the chest hair upwards then trim it in an angle aiming towards the knee (photo far left) this will keep it tidy as a trimmed chest is less likely to get chewsticks stuck in it!!! This will also keep the circular shape going when the Pom is viewed from the side.

Turn the Pom sideways and trim the underneath in a semi-circular shape. Start your line about 1/3 up back of front leg (behind the knee) then cut in a the semi circular shape with it ending in the same position about 1/3 way up back leg. This can be adjusted to suit the Pom's leg length etc. Trim away any excess hairs sticking out in the midriff section (photo far right).



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The photo on the far left shows roughly the height point where your semi-circle should end. To tidy up the back legs - I brush the hair upwards and outwards then cut away the hair sticking out which can look a like spurs!!! Now you'll have nice stovepipe legs. The far right photo shows the trousers being tidied up. They are cut level and at a height just below the back knee.

The photo of the far right shows the hair being trimmed away from behind the tail, about 1/2 inch or so, to help the tail lie flat - you don't have to do this - it's just my personal taste.



Trim away some of the hair around the base of the tail as it gives it a nice and tidy shape. Finish off the tail by twizzling the end - hold it straight up the back and then cut it the length where you think it will lay best.



Next step is neat tidy feet - trim away the hair to stop the rabbit foot look - don't forget to trim underneath the foot too. I usually flip the Pom on its back to do this - as I can control the Pom and the scissors better.



Finish up the foot by trimming the nails - you can see that Fizz is nice and relaxed from her expression as I've been doing her nails since she was a young puppy. It's important to condition them to it so they are used to nail trimming as an adult. I use cat nail clippers to trim away the length of the nail and I then use a Dremmel to file away the rough edges. When cutting the nail - be aware of the small vein inside the nail - you can see it if the nail is clear - if not, proceed with great caution. If you accidentally cut into the quick - the bleeding can be stopped with Styptic powder or liquid purchased in all pet shops - best to have it on hand just in case. Also take care not to get hair caught in the spinning dremmel. Dremmels can be ordered from online Grooming Suppliers - like Hub International



Finishing Touch - Here's quick and easy way to clean their teeth. First put on a fabric plaster on the end of your forefinger. Duck it in some water (middle photo) then some Bicarbonate of Soda - then gently insert your finger and massage the teeth and gums. They don't seem to object to this as much and don't mind taste. Ideally you should do this once a week and then your Pom will have nice pearly whites like Fizz.



Below is a photo of my basic grooming kit which comprises of a rattle comb, scissors, thinning scissors (for softer edges - mine have 46 teeth), soft slicker brush, cat nail clippers and a dremmel. I also have water to spray onto the coat to dampen it when I'm shaping. Other products not in photo - I like to clean ears with Leo Ear cleaner, I wet down a cotton ball, then gently wipe the inside of their ear. You can get this product at your vets or order it online from Hub or Canine Chemist. I also like to clean under the eyes with a damp flannel – water only. As you can see from the hairball left - not a lot of hair needs to come off to tidy up a Pom.



Voila, the end result!! A tidy, presentable Pom ready for her next adventure.



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