



DSA Grooming Booklet

Grooming Your Samoyed

Equipment Needed

Large Pin Brush	Whitening Shampoo Ph balanced for dogs
Slicker Brush	Scissors (narrow shank through screw)
Steel Comb (Greyhound/Hindes)	Dryer/Blower(such as Metro Air, Circuiteer)
Nail Clipper(heavy duty—Miller's Forge)	Toothbrush/dog toothpaste
Rake	Towels

Note: This is a basic overview of grooming. A more detailed procedure, complete with pictures, follows.

1. Brush the coat with a large pin brush. Comb or cut out all mats before washing.
2. Bathe dog with the whitening shampoo. Get the dog's body wet. Rub in shampoo scrubbing with fingertips if needed to work in the lather. Thoroughly rinse off the shampoo on the body. Wet the head (careful not to get water in the ears). Rub in shampoo on head, then rinse when done. Allow dog to shake off excess water, and follow up by squeezing the longer coat on the body with the towel. Rub the shorter coat with the towel on the head, feet, and lower legs. The more water you can get off with towels, the faster your dog will dry. If the coat is very tangled and matted or is damaged, then using crème rinse may be helpful.
3. Drying a Samoyed is best accomplished with a powerful forced air dryer/blower. This will actually blow a lot of the water off the dog.
4. As the dog is drying, loose hair will come out. The drier the dog, the more hair comes out. If the dog is actively shedding you can pull out loose hair with your fingers or use a pin brush to help get the hair out.
5. After the dog is completely dry, line comb the hair. This is done by pushing up a section of coat and combing it downwards. This gets at all areas of the dog and really gets the loose undercoat out. It also allows you to really take a good look at your dog's skin so you will notice if there are any sores or other problems.
6. Cut the nails (after the bath) with a heavy-duty, pliers-type nail clipper to prevent the nails from splitting. Remove only the tips of the nails so as not to cut the quick (the pink part you can see).
7. Remove the "feathers" growing around the paws and the hair between the toes with scissors to give this area a clean, neat appearance.
8. Trim up the pants, belly, and foreleg feathers to help keep the dog cleaner and easier to keep up.

The Samoyed does not have to be bathed as frequently as other long-coated breeds. However, for pets that live in the home and because of the color of this dog, it may be desirable to bathe them more often to rid the coat of visible dirt. This may also be accomplished by simply using the dryer/blower and blowing the dirt out and while using a pin brush or steel rake to comb the coat. A bath about every two to three months should be sufficient. Between groomings, the nails should be checked every other week to see if they need clipping. Combing with the steel comb or rake prevents matting.

*Dental care is very important as well. Please check with your veterinarian for his/her recommendations of caring for your dog's teeth and gums.



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Before Grooming



Most dogs will look like this before the grooming. The steps to the 'after' picture take some time, but the final effort is well worth it.



Before bathing the dog, brush/comb the dog to get tangles and mats out. Mats are usually found behind the ears, in the armpits, and around the neck.



To get a mat out, cut the mat into pieces parallel to the body. Then when the pieces are smaller, they can be combed out.

Be sure to see the scissor points through the coat before cutting to avoid puncturing the skin.



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Rake out the loose hair before starting the bath.

Note: When training a dog/puppy for grooming, praise the dog for doing the little things well (e.g., ‘good standing still’, etc.). This will reinforce the good behavior as they are getting used to a grooming table and the process itself. You may also use treats as a reward for good behavior.



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Bathing the Dog

Ensure that the water is lukewarm. Have the shampoo and towels close by so that you don't have to leave the dog to get them.

Use a gentle blueing shampoo with a 1-part shampoo to 8-part water mixture.



Start wetting the body of the dog first. Do the head last. Since the coat is so thick and the undercoat is difficult to get through, hold the nozzle very close and work the water into the hair to ensure it gets everything wet down to the skin.



Squeeze the shampoo onto the part of the dog you are working. Work the shampoo into the skin by using a wringing motion. Use your fingertips to scrub the legs, elbows, hocks, and feet.



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The dog should be well soaped and scrubbed before rinsing.



If the dog looks at you pathetically, don't let yourself get sucked into feeling too sorry for him. It's just a ploy to try to get you to stop.



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To do the head, hold the muzzle or jowls and run the water down the back of the ears to keep water out of them.

Add the shampoo and work it into the head and muzzle.



Scrub the ear against the under ear to get oil and dirt out.





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Be on the alert for the dog starting to shake off the water. If the dog starts to shake before you are ready, you can grab the muzzle and he will stop.



Rinse ears from the back and massage out the shampoo.

Start rinsing from the neck down using a wringing action. Be sure to get all the shampoo out or the dog can get hot spots. Keep the shower head as close to the body as possible while rinsing to ensure that you get everything out. Once you're finished, rinse once more to be sure.

Before getting the dog out of the tub, squeeze out as much water as you can from all over the body. Squeeze down the legs, the tail, the belly, chest, etc. Your dog will naturally want to shake. Hold up a towel in front of the dog (or close the shower curtain) and as the dog is shaking, give him the verbal command 'shake'. After awhile he will learn what that means and do it on command.



Use thick, absorbent towels to get as much water out of the coat as you can. Vigorously rub the whole body with towels (replacing with a dry one when wet), and be sure to get the neck, under arms, and under the hips.





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Drying the Dog

Now it's time to dry. Put the dog up on a grooming table or someplace flat and sturdy.



With the concentrator nozzle on and your dryer set to high, blow the water out of the dog's coat. Aim it towards the skin but angle it away so the water blows out into the air. Do this while the dog is standing up.

While drying the head and ear area, remove the concentrator nozzle and turn the dryer to low if the dog doesn't seem to like the air blowing on it's head/face. Be sure not to blow air into the ears.



Once most of the water is out, take the nozzle off, lay the dog on its side and continue to blow the water off. Use your fingertips to finger comb the hair or use a brush while you are drying.



Line dry one area at a time and methodically work over the entire body. By concentrating on small areas at a time, you will get the dog thoroughly dry.



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Combing the Dog

To line comb the dog, start at the bottom with a section and work up by combing a line of hair at a time. This will allow you to go over the whole dog and take a good look at the skin. If there is anything wrong, such as sores or bumps, you will be able to see it. The skin should look nice and pink and healthy looking.



Comb the tail by line combing from the bone in the tail a section at a time. Comb it from several different angles.



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Trimming the Nails and Feet

This is the only trimming that is allowed on dogs that are being shown in conformation.

Do the nails after the dog is dry, as they are softer and easier to trim. Pull the hair away from the nail and clip above the pink of the quick. If you accidentally nip the quick, use a product such as 'QuikStop' to stop the bleeding. A clipped quick will bleed quite profusely, so you must put something on it to stop the flow.



To trim feet, trim between the pads on the bottom of each foot. You can pull the hair out between the pads to trim better. On the front feet, trim the hair between the back pad and the front pads. Use a slicker brush and brush the tops of the feet back to towards the legs. This will bring up any long hairs which you can then trim parallel to the foot/leg.





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Trim the hocks by combing the hair so it stands out from the leg, then position the foot on the end of the table and trim the hair from the bottom to the top, parallel to the leg.





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Trimming the Rest of the Body

The trimming described in this section is applicable only to dogs that are not being shown in conformation. It is OK on dogs that are competing in other AKC events and it's a great help in keeping non-show dogs in easy-to-maintain condition.



Trim up the chest by using the scissors parallel to the chest in an upward direction. You need only trim the 'wild' hairs you see sticking out



Trim the front feathers by combing the hair out from the leg and then pulling the leg out to the front so that the feathers are facing down. Then trim towards the elbow in a nice straight line.





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Finish the trim by putting the leg down and trimming the outside of the side of the foot, and up the back of the front leg.



Trim the rear by combing the hair straight out from the rear and then cutting upwards. Pull one side of the pants to the side to trim inside the other side.





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Trim the remaining hair as needed.



Trim the underside of the tail to remove hair from the anus area. This will help to keep that more hygienic.



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Finish up by trimming the belly hair. Comb the hair downwards and then trim inwards with either a regular scissor or some thinning shears.





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After the Groom



Hopefully your dog will look similar to this when you are finished. This is a nice, tidy trim for a non-show dog and will help to keep him neat for some time to come.

Then you will have lots of quality time to cuddle and play with your best friend.