

Grooming Overview for Double-Coated Dogs

Double coats have straight, medium-length to medium-long hair. Designed to protect dogs from severely cold weather, these coats are extremely thick and shed profusely when temperatures change. Double-coated breeds descend from cold, wet climates, and as working dogs, probably lived outside. Therefore, their coats generally shed substantially during spring and fall.

Now that most of these breeds are family pets, they live in all types of climates, and most live indoors. They still undergo a substantial natural de-shed in the spring and fall and also shed to a lesser degree all year round. Pet owners who want to avoid tumbleweeds of dog hair inside their homes should have their double-coated dog groomed every 8 to 12 weeks.

Pre-Work Grooming Schedule for Double-Coated Dogs

1. Brush and de-shed coat. (*See Brushing Double-Coated and Combination-Coated Dogs on page 90 of Stage 6.*)
2. Examine the coat for tangles and mats, and determine approach for removal. (*See Mat Removal on page 72 of Stage 6.*)
3. Examine skin and coat for evidence of skin disorder and/or parasites.
4. Trim/grind nails. (*See Canine Nail Care on page 115 of Stage 6.*)
5. Clean ears. (*See Ear Cleaning and Hair Removal on page 118 of Stage 6.*)
6. Clean eyes and remove tear stains, if needed. (*See Eye Care, Tear & Beard Stain Removal on page 126 of Stage 6.*)

Double-Coated Breeds

The following breeds have double coats:

Working Group

- Akita
- Alaskan Malamute
- Anatolian Shepherd Dog
- Chinook
- Siberian Husky

Non-Sporting Group

- Finnish Spitz
- Norwegian Lundehund
- Schipperke
- Shiba Inu

Hound Group

- Norwegian Elkhound

Herding Group

- German Shepherd Dog
- Norwegian Buhund
- Swedish Vallhund
- Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)
- Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)



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7. Brush teeth—if requested and appropriate. (See *Canine Dental Care* on page 128 of Stage 6.)
8. Bathe the dog. (See *Bathing the Double-Coated Dog* on page 92 of Stage 6.)
9. Check and express anal sacs during the bath—if requested and appropriate. (See *Expressing Anal Sacs* on page 130 of Stage 6.)
10. Dry the dog. (See *Drying the Double-Coated Dog* on page 92 of Stage 6.)
 - *Clip paw pads, before or after the bath, if needed. (See *Clipping Paw Pads* on page 31 of Stage 7.)

The Tidy Up for Double-Coated Dogs

Grooming procedures for the double-coated dog focus on de-shedding, including reducing shedding hair that might accrue on the upper arms, upper thighs, neck, chest, shoulders and rump, especially during seasonal shedding times. The high-velocity dryer is the most effective tool for removing loose hair, dander and dirt before and after the bath to prepare for further de-shedding with the tool of your choice. However, be prepared that it will make a mess, blowing hair everywhere.

Line brushing is the primary grooming procedure for removing heavy undercoat. Refer to *Brushing the Double-Coated Dog*, beginning on page 90 of Stage 6, to review complete instructions for brushing and de-shedding this coat type.

Finish Styling for Double-Coated Dogs

Once you have completed pre-work tasks and the Tidy Up, you are ready to perform the following finish grooming tasks:

1. Use your high-velocity dryer to blow any remaining loose hair off the dog. (Brush any hair off your grooming table first so it does not blow everywhere.)
2. Apply a coat-appropriate polish or spritz of high-quality mink oil to condition and increase the shine of the coat.
3. Brush and/or comb the coat a final time.



*A groomer blows loose hair off a German Shepherd Dog.
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Breed Note: Pembroke and Cardigan Welsh Corgis

These short-legged herding breeds are very similar. How can you tell them apart?



*The Pembroke Corgi has pointy ears and no tail.
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*The Cardigan Corgi has rounded ears and a long tail.
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Breed Highlight: Grooming the Siberian Husky

Use your high-velocity dryer before and after the bath to remove as much hair as possible. Continue to remove coat with a slicker brush, shedding blade, undercoat rake, rubber curry and/or dematting tool. In your quest to remove excess coat, it is easy to become overzealous and cause brush burn. To avoid this, do not use too much pressure as you brush and do not brush over the same area repeatedly.



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You know you are finished de-shedding a Husky—this applies to Akitas and Alaskan Malamutes as well—when you can run a wide-toothed comb cleanly from the roots to the tips of the hair. Thorough de-shedding achieves a shiny coat that stands up from the body (as opposed to clinging to the body) and bounces as the dog moves.

Trimming the Sanitary Area

Sanitary trims are not typically recommended for Huskies. However, if a Husky appears to need a trim to keep the groin area clean, use a very light hand, only skimming the hair. In other words, leave the fur long enough so that when it grows back it does not irritate the dog, causing them to lick the area—the texture of Husky hair creates a lot of itching when it grows back in. If the area around the anus needs to be cleaned up, lightly trim it with thinning shears. You want to maintain a natural look, removing only as much coat as is needed to help the area stay cleaner.

Trimming the Feet

The amount of hair on Husky feet varies. Some pet owners are very particular about their dog's feet, so make it a habit to ask if they want hair trimmed from the feet before you do it.

To trim the feet:

1. Brush the hair on the entire foot up. Use thinning shears or scissors to cut all the hair sticking up or out from around the foot. Be careful not to expose the entire nail.

Or

2. Use a #4F blade, and reverse clip the entire top of the foot. Be careful not to expose the entire nail. (This method works best for dogs with lots of hair on their feet.)

Trimming the Hocks

Huskies might also have longer hair hanging from their hocks. Check in with the pet owner as to their preference before trimming the hocks. Hair on the hocks can be trimmed or left, depending on the pet owner's preference.

To trim the hocks:

1. Brush the hair on the hock up. Use thinning shears or scissors to scissor all the hair that is sticking up or out from the hock.

Or

2. Use a #4F blade, and clip the entire hock, from the hock joint to the top of the large pad. (This method works best for dogs with a lot of hair on their feet.)

Trimming the Tail

Typically, no trimming of the Husky tail is required. However, if trimming is required, use thinning shears and follow the natural outline of the tail to achieve a natural look.



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