

The following advice is aimed at the majority of you that have taken a Giant Schnauzer into your life to be simply a loving family pet. For those of you that intend to show your Giant, you will need to take advice and learn from the breeder and fellow exhibitors how to hand strip, clip and groom him specifically for the show ring.

Your loving companion needs to have his coat regularly maintained and groomed which needs to be done every 8 -10 weeks to keep him in excellent condition and good shape.

### **Maintenance and Grooming**

You will only need two tools for this routine a slicker brush



and a coarse / fine comb



Regular brushing with a slicker brush helps to remove any loose dead hair, it also helps to keep the longer leg and beard hair from matting. This is the only type of brush that will actually get through the Giants longer hair. After brushing the dog with a slicker brush, a thorough comb through is necessary to remove any smaller tangles that maybe left. The coat needs to be regularly combed through with a fine-toothed comb. This also applies to those of you that intend to have your giants clipped, because the old dead coat gets trapped and will very quickly become thick and dusty. A stripping stone can help remove excess undercoat. You just need to scrape over the coat with it to remove the dead hair. DezynaDog market a white stone that appears to be the best as it doesn't crumble or break as easily as the black ones.

### **Bathing**

Regular bathing will not affect your dogs' coat; on the contrary, because the skin is clean, it will stimulate the healthy growth of hair. Ensure that you purchase a good shampoo specifically for harsh coats but ensure that you thoroughly rinse the coat through after shampooing. This will also ensure that

there will be no scurf. A good tip that will leave the coat with a real shine is to add a few drops of vinegar to the final rinse.

The Giant Schnauzer is no different to the other two sizes in terms of how to keep his beard from becoming matted. You need to keep his beard washed and combed regularly to stop it getting messy, tangled and /or matted. The important thing to remember when combing, is to work from the end of the beard to the root and DONT dig in and pull the mat, if you find one, from the root.

### **Nails**

A nail grinder is a useful quick and painless method to keep your dogs nails short and there are no sharp edges left on the nail.

### **Ears**

A pair of non-locking forceps is the easiest to use as they have rounded ends and grooves for a better grip. If your Giant is prone to having waxy ears, Biogroom ear powder helps to grip the hair, whilst keeping the ear dry and fresh. It can also be used for dusting, once you've cleaned the ear with ear cleaner.