

Congratulations you are now owned by probably one of the smartest little beings you will ever know. This is just a short note on how to keep those looks that were most probably one of the main reasons that you chose this fantastic little breed.

Your Mini will need a fair bit of brushing and combing to keep it looking smart and tot free.

Hint: Always try to use the same work table if you have not got a grooming table. This should be a sturdy table with an anti slip covering on it e.g. you could use an anti slip shower mat, but do try to use the same table as this will become familiar and they will begin to realise that this is not play time. As long as you are firm but reassuring and talking to them with praise and strokes, this can prove to be an excellent bonding time as they do need to trust you for some of the tasks that will be done here. If you are ultimately going to use the services of a groomer then the basic procedures listed here are still needed to keep baby looking its smartest.

Hint to get baby used to the electric clippers used by groomers, (the noise and vibrations) try rubbing an electric toothbrush or shaver (body only) over them a few times a week

The Basic care kit should consist of:

1. A Quality Dual bristled brush. This has both nylon and natural bristle which will help to simulate the follicles and gets deeper into the coat



2. A Coarse/Fine Comb



3. Palm Pin Brush (soft backed is preferable as it is more flexible)



4. Small Slicker Brush (about 3 inch preferably with slight curve to head and a very soft sprung head as it is more forgiving, harder types will pull the hair out)



5. Scissors: straight, thinning, & bull nose.



6. Nail clippers and Styptic Powder Coagulant (as bleeding can happen)



7. Ear powder(for plucking ear hair) never scissor the inside of the ear canal



Bathing at least every two weeks and more regularly if necessary especially the legs and beard using a mild baby shampoo for puppies. A hair dryer can be used to dry and volumise the leg hair. Always comb through before and after bathing to prevent matting

Combing/Brushing the beard and leg furnishings should be done daily or at the very least every other day.

Start with the flexi pin brush on the legs always brushing upwards and paying particular attention to the front armpits as this area can be particularly prone to 'knots' if left. Once all the leg furnishings have been brushed, use the small soft slicker brush again using upward brush strokes. Next, starting at the bottom of the front legs, use the comb in circular type motion working up the leg about an inch at a time then lightly lay down the hair. With the back legs, comb the hair downwards and at the foot and rear again use the circular type motion.

With the head, use the pin brush and first bring it forward through the eyebrows; then again bring forward through the beard brushing all the beard forward, this includes under the mouth. Once there is free movement through the whole beard, use the small soft slicker and then use the comb down the centre of the snout to create the centre part then you can give the full coat a good 2 minute brush over with the duel bristle brush this will also help stimulate the follicles and skin .

Ears

Schnauzers' ears need to be plucked as they can suffer from yeast infection. Try not to allow water into the ear. Using Thornit powder is the easiest way to remove hair from the ear canal. It has both antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties. Sit the dog on your lap and put about a quarter teaspoon of powder in each ear and massage it in for a few minutes. Then gently using repetitive finger thumb pinching plucking, do not rush this, and use more powder as required, you will soon get the feel for this and you'll be amazed at the volume of mass you set aside.

Scissoring

Scissoring and cutting patterns requires a practical hands on approach, so ask the breeder for advice. A list of scissors as part of the basic kit requirements is shown, but the **hair**

between the pads on the feet should become part of your regular grooming agenda by using the bull nose scissors gently trim the hair between the pads

Nails

Nails should be checked and clipped if required weekly and always have the quickstop to hand as bleeds can occur.

Teeth

Teeth should be brushed regularly using only toothpaste specifically for dogs. You can use a toothbrush or a rubber finger brush which can be less intrusive to the dog and more tactile for the purpose of moving around the mouth faster as they won't stand long for this

