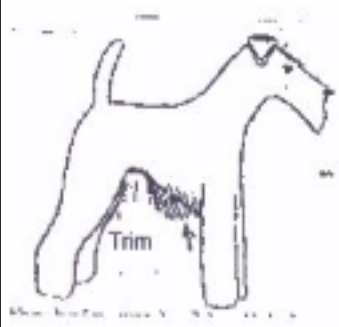


Pictorial Grooming Guide for the Airedale Terrier



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Grooming Guide

For the Pet Airedale Terrier

by Joey Fineran

Supplies:

Grooming table, with “arm” and “noose;” good clipper (Oster A-5, for instance) with the following blades: #10, #8 1/2, #4, and #40; good barber scissors, thinning shears, ear forceps, cotton balls, ear cleaner, nail clippers, quick-stop, palm brush and wide-tooth comb.

Basic “rules:”

- a. Always clip in the direction the hair grows.
- b. Never use a hot blade on your dog! Check the temperature of the blade by laying it against your cheek *often*. When it starts to feel uncomfortably warm to your cheek, lay your clipper down and do something else for awhile, like trim nails or scissor between the pads of the feet, etc., until the blade is cool again. Or change blades and do something that requires a different number blade if you don't have another of the same size. (Or you can buy clipper cool.) When you first start to learn to clip, it may feel like a very awkward operation. Practice makes perfect, but again: make sure the blade is not too hot for the dog, as it can burn the skin!
- c. Your clipping should be smooth. (You should not see any clipper marks!) Tip: If you have a clipper holder, be sure to use it every time you put your clippers down. If you don't have a clipper holder, put your clippers on the floor every time you put them down. They cannot fall off the floor!
- d. You have optimum control of your scissors if you handle your scissors with your thumb and your **ring** finger!

LET'S BEGIN —

1. With #8 1/2 blade: Start at the top of the neck and clip down the back to the base of the tail, letting the blade lay flat on the body. (Don't try to hold it up off the body, unless you are coming to a blending area.) Clip down the sides of the body, with a “sweeping” motion over the ribs, but let up before you go under the body, so the hair gets smoothly blended to the longer hair on the under side of the brisket. Clip the black hair over the hind legs, but leave the tan - for now.

Clip the entire tail. The underside should be shorter. Go over that with a #10 later.

Clip the flat (back) of the fanny and down the back legs to just about the point of the hock.

Clip the sides of the neck, down the shoulders to the elbow, letting up just enough not to have an indentation at that joint.

The front is a little tricky. The hair grows up and in from the top of the leg to the breast bone, and up and out to the shoulder. Try to follow the direction of the hair. You should not indent under the body from the front, but you should also not be able to see any hair in front when looking from the side.

Making sure your blade is COOL, clip the throat area starting at the point under the back edge of the mouth. We use the 8 1/2 blade there because of the “cow lick” just above the throat. The dog will get an nasty hot spot there if you get it too close.

2. With #10 blade: Clip the head, starting just above the eyebrows, back to the neck. Draw an imaginary line from the back corner of the eye to the corner of the mouth, and clip back from there, following the direction of the hair. Along the side of the throat, where the hair meets the side of the neck, the hair grows *up*. Be careful. Clip all of the throat area, but be careful around that cow lick.

Clip the ears. Cradle the ear in your fingers, holding it in place with your thumb. Be careful to clip from the center of the ear toward the edge, or you may catch the edge of the ear in the teeth of the blade. (That would cause a blood bath!) The inside of the ear should be as close as possible (no hair) so use your #40 blade, or scissor all of the hair away. (Let your dog lie down for this, if he will.) Using your scissors, trim the outside edge of the ear so it’s fringe-free. Using your ear forceps, pull the hair from inside the ear canal. Clean the ear out with cotton balls and ear cleaner.

Still using #10, clip the under belly, starting from the belly button (just back of the end of the rib cage) clipping back. You have to get under the dog pretty much and lift one leg at a time to reach it all; the belly, “privates”, and top of the inside of the legs should be clean. Then stand behind him (or her), lift one leg at a time and clean the “top of the arch,” blending to the hair of his “furnishings,” which start maybe three inches above his hock, on the inside of the leg. (See pictorial view on back page.)

Trim the BACK of the tail a little closer with the #10 blade.

3. Using the #4 blade, clip the “pants” off the back legs - down from the top of the hips to the hock area, “letting up” a little toward the front of the leg for some longer “fringe,” which you will shape with scissors later.

4. Nails and feet: Trim the nails. Scissor the hair from between the pads of the feet. (Remove ALL of the hair.) and the outside edge of each pad.

5. Comb face, chest and legs thoroughly, using wide tooth comb.

6. Bathe, rinse well, blow dry, blowing with your hair dryer where you are brushing or combing. All hair should be dry and completely snarl-free before you start your scissor work!

7. Looking at the pictures on the back page, **trim with scissors** accordingly: It helps to comb the hair out perpendicular to the legs and then scissor the hair in a neat line. In areas you are blending, you draw imaginary lines from the shortest to the longest points and make the hair fit within that line!

Scissor the underline to follow the contour of the body, starting at “nothing” at the belly button and cut to about an inch below where his elbow is.

Scissor the front legs to appear absolutely straight, like a cylinder (“No feet!”) Cut around the outside of the feet so they are neat, and appear to be just the bottom of the cylinder.

Follow the contours of the rear legs and blend the hair on the “hips,” (This is where a #4 blade comes in handy, but even then it requires scissoring.) Airedales don’t wear PANTALOONS!!

The head takes years of practice, but here is a guide. An Airedale’s head should look like a brick. Accomplish this by combing the hair out to the side (perpendicular to the head) and straightening the line. You’ll want to be able to see his eyes when you are looking at him straight on. That, or course, means that he will be able to see, which is important.

Comb the eyebrows and whiskers forward. Scissor away excess hair between the eyebrows at the stop. Scissor the eyebrows diagonally from long at the center to very short at outside corner of the eye . Eyebrows should be relatively short and triangular blending into the short hair of the head. Again, combing the hair perpendicularly, trim the excess hair from the top of the muzzle. The top line of the muzzle should be straight and flat (like a brick!), but not hairless!

Using your thinning shears, blend the line from the corner of the mouth to the eye. Again with the thinning shears: Thin and shape the beard to a long, lean look.

When you are done, do a once-over on the body, neck and head with the clippers, using appropriate blades (not necessary to redo under belly and inside of ears). There are always tufts of hair that need to be trimmed off after a bath. This will give you a finished look. A well-groomed Airedale does not look like he has been groomed at all. He just looks like his hair grows that way naturally.