

Keep your Australian Shepherd looking great with the grooming information on this web site. With the proper grooming tools and knowledge that is provided here you can groom your Aussie. Grooming does takes practice. Hair grows back! So do not be afraid to attempt to keep your dog feeling good and looking great.



Karen Thurlow-Kimball, is a certified all breed groomer that has combined her web design talents with her grooming talents. This information is provided as a courtesy to all Aussie enthusiasts please share this [link](#). Karen is available for private grooming instruction and/or grooming demonstrations. Contact Karen at sealevel@maine.rr.com



It is the undercoat you see coming off this dog. There are two types of hair in each [hair follicle](#) on a dog. The undercoat known also as the secondary hair and the guard hair known also as the primary hair. Always comb or brush the direction the coat grows. There are several [types of brushes](#) you can use.



This [undercoat rake](#) is good for when your dog is "blowing coat". It helps to spritz your dog with a dilution of conditioner (1 tablespoon conditioner to 16 oz of water) before you start brushing. The hair will not be so fly away and it works as a de-tangler.

With the proper [tools](#) and a trained dog, grooming can be easy and enjoyable for you and your dog. Your dog will feel better and you will enjoy living with a clean dog.

Behind the ear should be trimmed neatly. Aussies should not have dreadlocks hanging from their ears!



After brushing out any tangles from behind the ear with a [slicker brush](#). Use [thinning shears](#) to take out some of the long fine hair that grows around the ear. Hold the [ear leather](#) out of the way and gently trim. Brush with the slicker as you trim so you can tell how much hair you have removed.



Trim off the fine long hair on the leather while supporting the ear. Be careful that you don't pull on the ear.



Lift the ear to trim in front and use the slicker gently to see how much you need to trim. Sometimes this hair will be greasy from the inner ear. Check that your dogs inner ear is clean, you can wash the ear canal with diluted white vinegar or an ear wash from your vet.



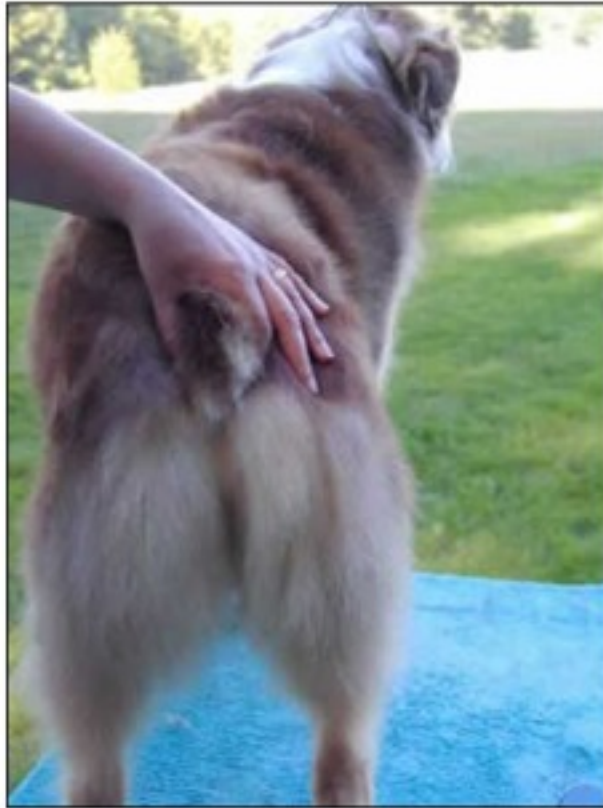
If your dog has really thick and long ear hair or mats you can start the ear by using a [stripper](#). Use your thumb on the stripper to keep it from ripping out hair. Gently pull through a section of hair cleaning out mats and thinning as you go.

Trimming the dock on your Aussie will keep it clean and make them look neater. Because there are several types of coat on Aussies I am using two examples of dogs. The red tri has more length of hair with a fuller slightly wavy coat. The black tri in these photos has a short straight coat.

The dock should be trimmed with [thinning shears](#).



When you grasp the dock with your hand you can feel where the tail bone is. With this you can see that I have made a tail for the dog with the way I am holding the hair in the lower photo.



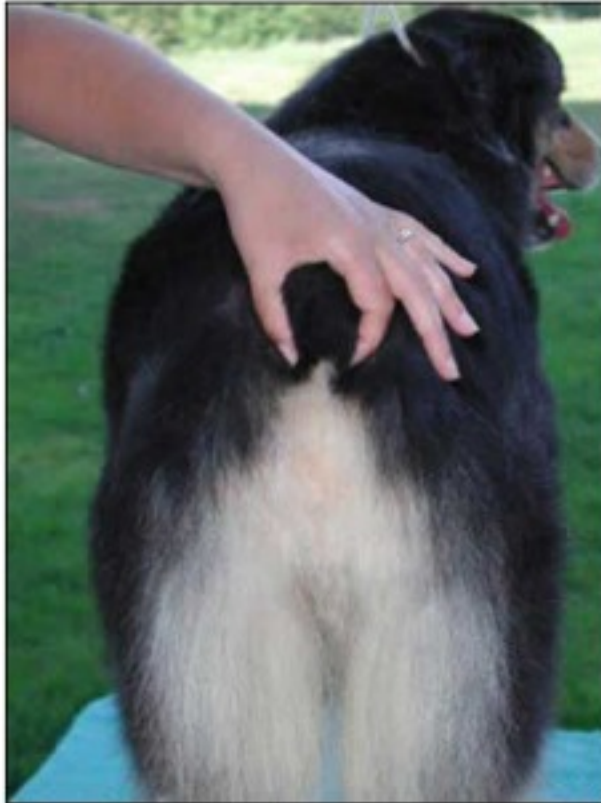
This is what I will use to trim the dock.



Holding your thinning shears so you come up at the tail area, trim the long hair. It takes several cuts to trim this hair. Take a little at a time until you get the length you want.



You can see the difference in length of hair on the dock when you look at this photo compared to the first photo. If your dog has allot of pants you can strip some off with a [stripping tool](#).



This dog has less hair to take off, I still grasp the dock in the same way.



With thinning shears I can shape the dock to a natural look. If I were to use straight shears it would be a blunt straight line. Take a little off at a time. You do have to work at it with thinning shears but you will have a nicer look in the end.

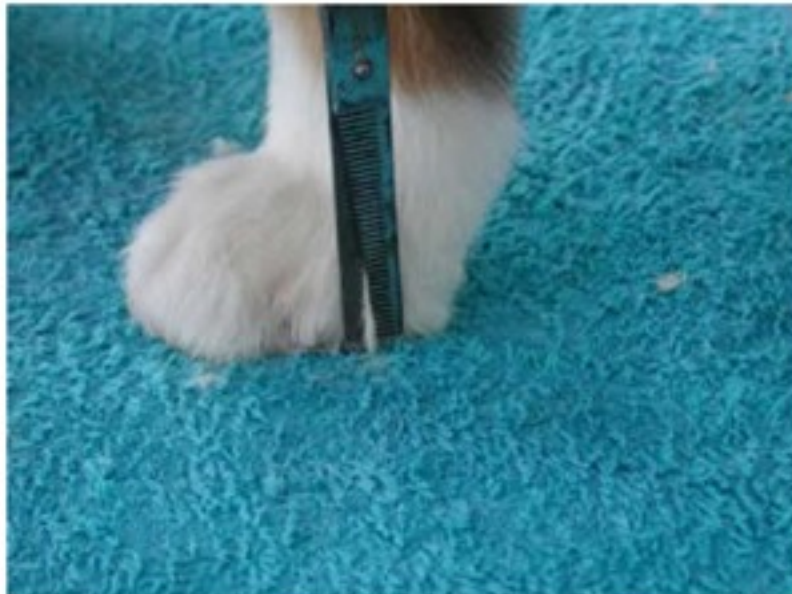
Brush up the hair on the front feet and rear feet.



Hold the front foot and use your [thinning shears](#) to trim off the long hair on the top of the foot. The longer hair comes out from between the toes but do not go between the toes with your thinning scissors. Just take it off the top of the foot.



The rear foot gets the same trim. It may be easier to do the rear with the foot on the table.



Now that the long hair is trimmed from the top, go around the out side and trim off the long shaggy hair to shape each foot.



The front [pastern](#) needs to be trimmed up to the pad above the pastern. You can see the pad on this dog's foot in the photo up by the tip of the scissors. Use your [straight shears](#) for this.



To trim the [hock](#) hold the rear leg out behind the dog. If your dog is older and has a hard time with this position put the rear leg at the edge of the table and cut up. Brush the hair up and use your [straight shears](#).



Using a small [stylist shear](#) trim the hair on the bottom of the foot.



Also clean out some between the pads.



A dog with neatly trimmed feet will bring less dirt in the house and has better traction on slippery floors.

Types of Scissors

1. 44 Tooth Thinning Shear - 2. 8" Straight Shear - 3. 5" Stylist Shear

[For grooming tool suppliers click here.](#)



Brushes and Combs

1. Comb - 2. Pin Brush - 3. Slicker Brush - 4. Slicker Brush - 5. Stripping Tool/Mat Breaker - 6. Under Coat Rake
- [For grooming tool suppliers click here.](#)

