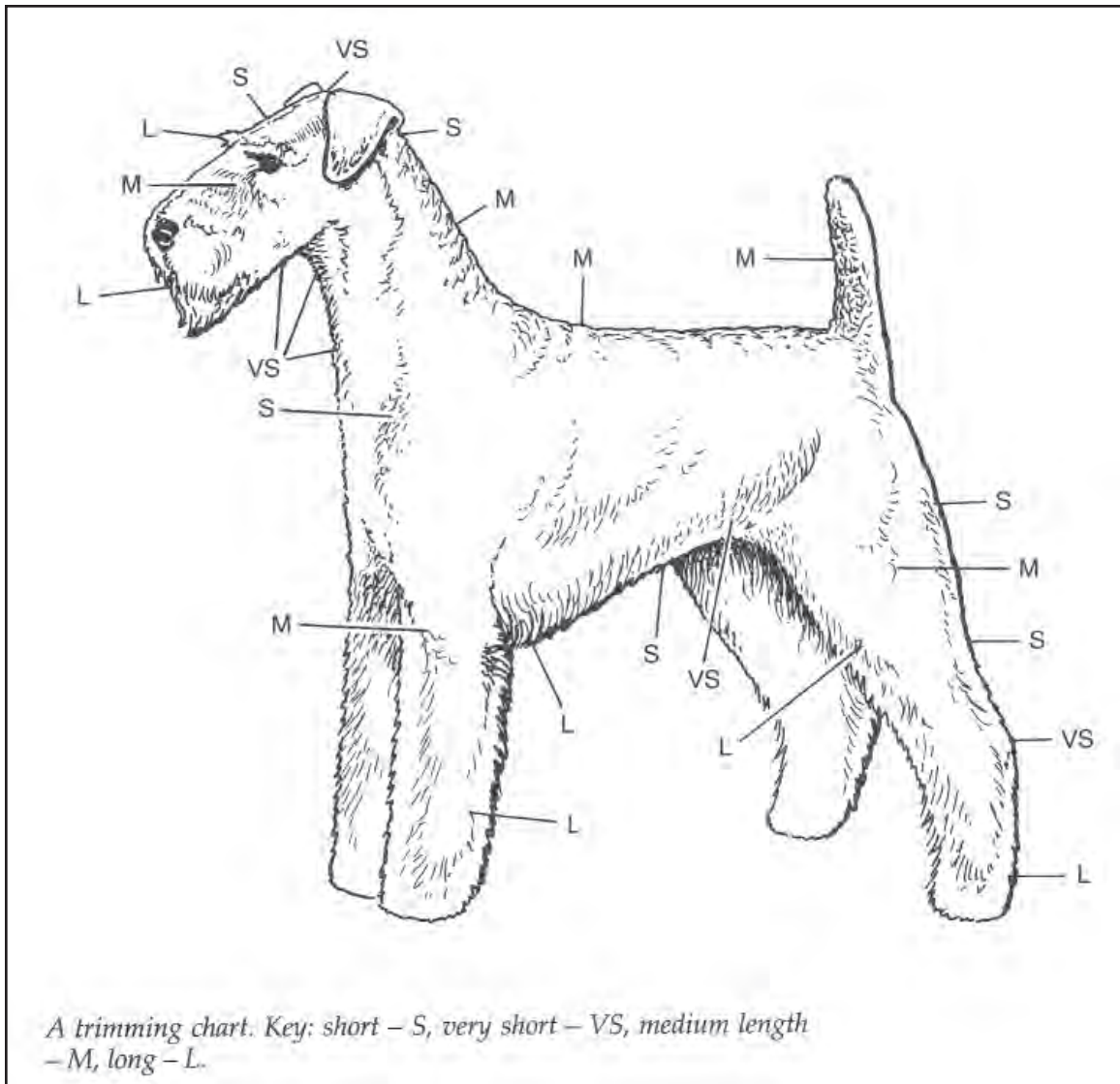


AIREDALE PET TRIM TIPS



Lorene W. Hunt

The Pet Trim

An Airedale is an easy breed to clip (there is just a lot of clipping to do), and a properly trimmed Airedale looks like the breed standard for appearance. Sadly most pet trimming parlors end up making an Airedale look like a poor impression of a Schnauzer or something even worse.

The general effect of clipping an Airedale is similar to that obtained in grooming for show, but is much easier and quicker. There is no worry about a gouge in the wrong place, and the job is done all at one time. With hand stripping there is a process of waiting for the hair to grow at different times in various places to make it all come together for the show ring. However with a clip, the coat will not appear as crisp and wiry as when the coat is hand stripped. Hand stripping is a much more tedious process of removing the hair in those same locations we will discuss and so for pets or older retired show dogs I recommend just a nice trim.

Tools of the Trade

Those interested in trimming a pet, and desiring the quick and easy method would be wise to invest in a pair of electric clippers. I don't recommend the cheap clippers with the snap-on plastic head guards because the plastic comes off very easily at the wrong time. I have found that the best investment is a clipper that has metal detachable blades. I use and recommend Oster or Andis. The blades I use most often are the #8-1/2, #10 and #15. The higher the number, the shorter the hair gets cut.

Most new clippers come with a #10 blade, which is the one I use most often.

By trimming your Airedale with clippers, you can keep your pet neat and clean at all times, with a minimum of effort; however, the following warnings should be heeded:

Warning:

- 1) This applies to pets only. Never clip an Airedale you expect to take into the show ring.
- 2) A clipped coat grows in soft and curly.
- 3) If clipped too close to the skin, it may cause an irritation or a sore known as clipper burn. On areas which appear to have been clipped too closely, such as under the throat, or around the ears, jaw and tuck-up apply either a good salve, witch hazel or baby oil.
- 4) A stripped coat is all new hair, but when clipped, the dead hair and all undercoat are left on the dog, thus frequent combing and brushing with a wire brush, or using a undercoat raking knife is advocated to remove the dead hair and improve the texture of the coat.

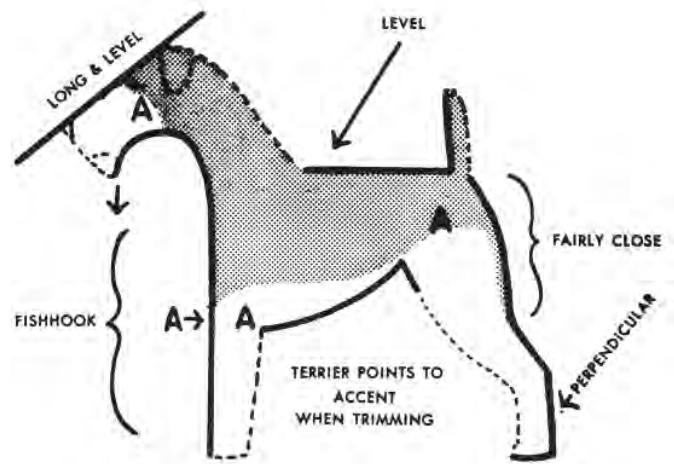
It is important that your grooming equipment be of TOP quality. It is wise to invest in a good quality set of electric clippers. There are many on the market. Over a period of years they will pay for themselves by recouping the cost of visits to

the grooming shop. The attaching blades are sold in different sizes for different parts of the body and will require sharpening every so often, depending on how many times a year they are used. You can begin buying just two blades, one for the body hair and one that will cut closer but not too close for the rest of the body parts. Individuals have their “favorite” tools. Many of the most valued are homemade, or those which have been passed from one breeder to another. With a little practice and experimentation, the beginning groomer will find those tools especially to his/her liking. Without the proper equipment it is almost impossible to do a credible job, and conversely, the proper equipment can make a difficult job much less so.

1. A good set of clippers with detachable blades
2. Grooming table
3. Grooming Arm with a noose
4. Scissors
5. Thinning Shears
6. Steel Comb with both coarse and fine teeth.
7. Brush with natural (not synthetic) bristles
8. Palm pad
9. Undercoat raking knife or Magnetic Stripper. This tool cuts as well as pulls hair. It is very useful for touch-ups and excellent for taking out the undercoat when it is used as a rake or comb. (It should be initially dulled by stroking it over a piece of wood).

Let's Get Started

In the event you purchase clippers with just one blade (or head), the #10 will do the job. A #8-1/2 is normally considered the terrier blade and leaves the hair 1/2 inch long. A #10 leaves hair 1/4 inch long and the #15 is preferred for areas to be shorter



such as ears, tuck-up, chest and rear.

Following the sketch noted above, clip the entire shaded area. Also clip buttocks. Chest hair is not clipped, but combed forward and trimmed diagonally toward the tuck-up. Tuck-up is clipped short, as indicated.

Use either a smaller blade or run the #15 against the lay of the hair, for trimming the sides of head and ears. Run clipper over edge of ears, pressing against forefinger to bevel the edges. Cut ragged hairs on edges and inside ears with scissors. Strip eyebrows to a semblance of show trim, i.e. longer over the inner corners of the eyes, and shorter over the outer corners, blending in length with hair on

skull. Comb face hair forward and strip, or cut, the too-long hair at top to make top of head look level.



The Legs

Shaping the legs is a matter of trimming all hairs that spoil the outline. Trim the feet first. Scissor between the pads, any stray hairs that stick out between the nails. Pick out or scissor the hairs around the foot at ground level, with the dog standing firmly on his feet, showing a little of the two front nails. This makes the feet look attractive as they

should be – round, tight, and cat-like. The idea is to have the foot look round, with well-arched toes, and thick pads. After you have shaped a front foot, you may begin on that leg. Remove the tuft of hair on the back of the elbow, comb out the furnishings thoroughly, being careful not to remove too much undercoat. The front legs should appear round, like cylinders, straight down to the ground, with no bend of pastern. Start with a side view, and pick out any hairs that do not



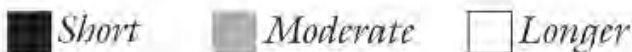
give a straight outline. Then go to the front and do the same thing. You can correct for slightly turned out front feet by taking the outside of the front feet very close and leaving a little more on the inside of the front leg, as viewed from the front. A dog with too much bend in pastern can be improved by carefully picking of the furnishings. When you are grooming, it does not matter what the dog looks like underneath the coat, groom so that the impression is that he has no faults.

The top of the front leg should be blended in to the body coat so that in front view the legs go straight up to the body.

The back legs are harder to groom than the front legs. Again, start by grooming the foot round. Then comb the furnishings so that you can see what you are doing. Start where the leg joins the body and taper down so that the dog does not look as if he has cowboy chaps or bloomers. The back of the rear should be close, as should the back of the tail. The area where the tendon comes down to meet the hock joint on the rear of the leg should be fairly close, particularly if the dog is lacking angulation. The front of the stifle should be long, but not exaggerated and gently rounding to indicated angulation. More subtle blending is necessary. Trim the area from the hock to the ground to appear straight. The inside of the first thigh is trimmed close, graduating the hair out as it comes over the second thigh. Those dogs with weak rear muscles will require more hair on the outside of the rear legs, and those with really heavy rears should be trimmed close.

THE HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters are more difficult. Start at the base of the tail and clipper the hair, following the lines of your dog towards the bend of the stifle and the hock. Try to keep an even layer of hair on the



leg throughout this process. Move to the side of your dog and blend from the coupling towards the buttock.

Just below this area, blend towards the outside angles so as to produce the required shaping all down the outside of the leg. The legs when viewed from the rear should look like a horseshoe. Trim carefully the long hair as you comb it forward to shape it at the front of the stifle towards the feet. Trim feet as before, to make them tight in appearance, but do not show any nail.

When viewing from the back, trim inside the legs again by combing the leg hair in towards each leg and trimming any long hairs to form a straight line towards the foot. Scissor to the required shape. At the top, inside the back legs, trim closely around the vulva or testicles very carefully with blunt-ended scissors.

The hock hair adds the shape to the angles when viewed from the side. Try to allow this hair to grow a good length.

THE TAIL

This is trimmed the same length as the jacket. The underside of the tail can be scissored evenly to the tip. Trim the length of the hair at the tip by cutting in a semicircle making it neat in appearance. Scissor around the anus carefully.

THE HEAD

Remember, the whole idea of trimming is to attempt to make the dog appear perfect, no matter what is underneath that coat. The dog should look in balance when you are done. A dog with a slight body should not be groomed to have

so heavy a rear that it is out of balance with the rest of the dog. This will not only look strange but will make the slight body even more noticeable.

The most important thing in trimming, by hand or clipper is a smooth flow of lines from one part of the dog into another...no abrupt changes in length of hair, just try to blend one area with another.

Cut or sand the nails, give the dog a bath and presto---the job is done! He may have acted like he hated every minute of it, but will not strut around quite proudly, looking like the whole thing was really his idea in the first place.

■ *Short* ■ *Moderate* □ *Longer*





Short



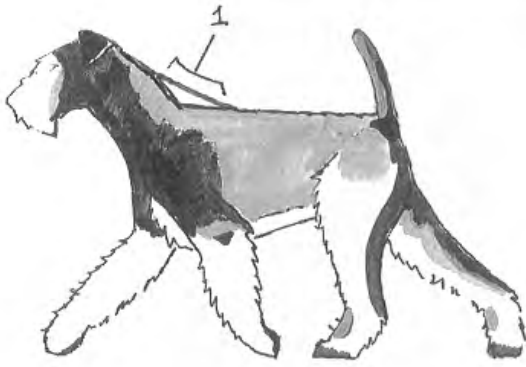
Moderate



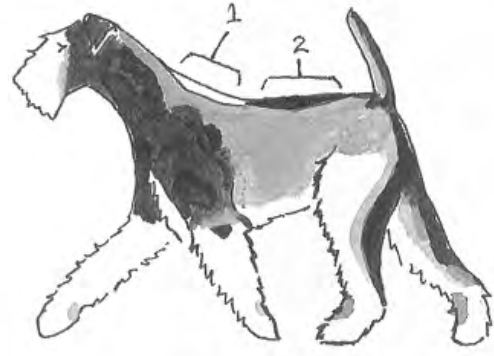
Longer



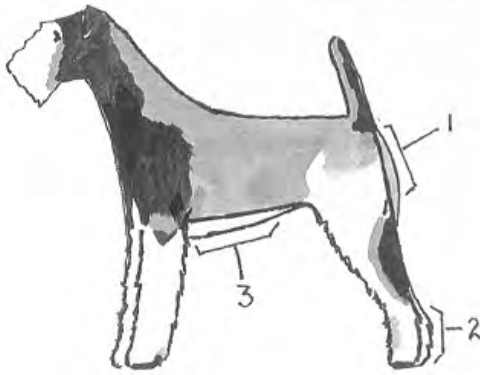
■ Short ■ Moderate □ Longer



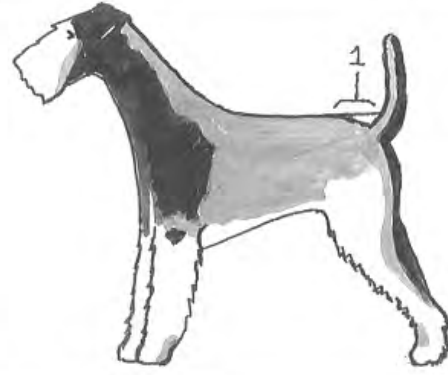
Straight shoulder.



Roach back.



Straight stifle/narrow chest.



Drooping croup.



Narrow hocks.



Open hocks.



Cow hocks.

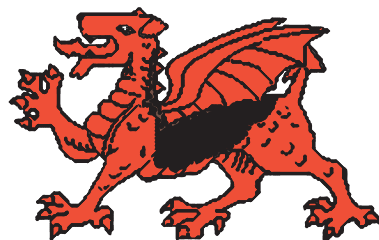


Wide front.

Notes:

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AIREDALES

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