

## Grooming Your Eurasier

Grooming your Eurasier is relatively simple, provided you keep up with regular maintenance. Eurasiers that have been spayed or neutered can sometimes develop a thicker and/or longer coat which can be harder to look after, but the same techniques apply. If you are wanting to groom your Eurasier yourself at home, there are a few basic tools you will need:

- A greyhound style metal comb
- A pin brush
- A slicker brush
- Trimming shears
- Nail clippers or dremel

I recommend the Chris Christensen brand which can be purchased in Canada from [www.tybrushe.com](http://www.tybrushe.com),

however these tools can be found at your local pet store as well. If your Eurasier is blowing his or her coat, an **undercoat rake** would also be handy. You will also need a **spray bottle** filled with either **water** or **grooming spray**. I personally like the Plush Puppy OMG Spray, which is also available from Tybrushe, but water works too. A **high velocity dryer** is also a great thing to have, however they are a bit of an investment. I use and recommend the XPower 4HP dryer which is available on Amazon. Avoid tools such as the Furminator. They are not good for double coated dogs because they can cut the coat and cause permanent damage.

The first step for grooming your Eurasier is to thoroughly line comb the entire coat. This is necessary to separate the coat and remove loose undercoat to avoid matting. The correct way to do this is to hold a section of the coat down flat with one hand and use the other hand to comb downwards to the skin. A grooming spray will help the comb glide through the coat more easily and help loosen any tangles. If you do not want to use a spray, it is important to at least mist the coat with some water as you work through sections.

Combing the coat when it is completely dry can cause static and hair breakage. I like to start on the back thighs and move up the body towards the neck, making sure to get all areas of the coat, including the belly and between the front and back legs. After the coat is completely line combed, I take the pin brush and run it through the coat to ensure that it is not catching on any tangles anywhere. If you find the pin brush is getting stuck, that area needs more line combing. When done correctly, the pin brush should go straight through the entire coat. I also use the pin brush to brush out the tail and the feathers on the back of the front legs/bum area. Then you can use the slicker brush to smooth the tail and feathers and help the guard hairs lie flat. If your Eurasier matts easily behind the ears (some do and some don't) you can carefully cut them out with shears or a plastic milk bag cutter.

If you want to splurge on a high velocity dryer, it works similarly to line combing, but will save both time and your hands! Start from the back legs and work towards the head, blowing the coat against the direction of growth, making sure to get down to the skin. Work in straight lines to avoid tangling the coat.

The next step is trimming. For the most part, the Eurasier coat should **not** be trimmed anywhere. This is true for show grooming and for pets. The only hair that should be trimmed on your Eurasier is on the feet. The long hair between the pads can be trimmed short to prevent your dog from slipping and any longer tufts of hair around the toes can be tidied up so that the foot looks clean. The hair should be trimmed in the natural shape of the foot, which is oval. Trimming is not considered correct for the breed, except to tidy the feet, and if too much is removed on the legs or body, it can actually negatively impact the coat growth.

Finally, it is important to keep your Eurasier's nails at a correct length. If the nails are too long, they impact the way the dog stands and moves and can be painful (think stubbing your big toe and your toenails are too long!). You can use either dog nail clippers or a Dremel. Cut or grind the nails down so that the nails are short enough to not touch the ground when your dog is standing naturally.

If you are taking your Eurasier to a groomer, what you should request is:

- Line comb the entire coat and blow out with a high velocity dryer
- Tidy up the longer hairs around the foot pads and on the toes
- **NO** trimming anywhere on the coat, except for tidying the feet

Greyhound comb



Trimming Shears



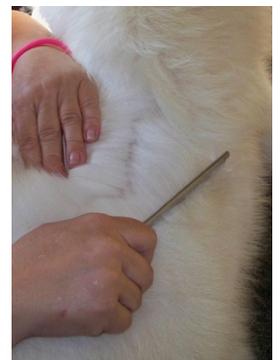
Pin Brush



Slicker Brush



Undercoat Rake



How to line comb



Arnold on our way home from a show. You can see his coat is separated and combed out and nothing has been trimmed except to tidy up his feet.