

Summerwinds

Helpful hints on Coat Care Products and Grooming for Curly Coated Breeds.



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There are many breeds of dogs that carry wavy and curly coats. Poodles, Bichons, Portuguese water dogs, Belington's, Kerry Blue Terriers to name a few. With any coated breed it is very important to condition on a regular bases. But when dealing with a curly coated breed it is even more important. Fine, thick, tightly curled coat is more delicate than a fine straight coat. No different than a rod. A straight rod is much stronger than a rod that is bent.

Curly hair has to do with the chemical bonds in the protein that makes up hair-a-keratin. Keratins, particularly a-keratin, have long sequences of amino acids (often more than 300), which form a helical structure. Hair is curly through straight (on a bit of a spectrum) based on how flat or round the hair shaft is. Flat hair, like curling ribbon, is curly. In some breeds of curly coated dogs, the hair shafts are markedly oval in shape with definite edges. The cuticle is sharply kinked at the edges and is especially easily damaged at these points. The tightly curled hair twists much more frequently than in other breeds. It increases the need for extreme care in handling and very thorough conditioning.



Compare these cross-sections of three human hairs, all are different racial types: (left) Asian, (center) Caucasoid, (right) African

If the curly coat is not brushed and combed regularly, cording will accrue.

READY TO START:

AT THIS POINT, I THINK YOU SHOULD BE BETTER ARMED WITH SOME KNOWLEDGE ON NUTRITION FOR THE CANINE AND THE ANATOMY OF HAIR, AND PRODUCT FACTS...ARE YOU?

Hopefully you have read **NUTRITION FOR THE CANINE, ANATOMY OF HAIR** and **PRODUCT FACTS** and have put it into practice. Now, once you have a healthy dog and understand the basics of hair and what products are made of and how they work, you will understand a little more about what it will take to grow a gorgeous coat. The next question is, now that your dog has a gorgeous coat, **how to keep and protect it?** It's one thing to grow a healthy gorgeous coat, but put into the wrong hands and it's like the old story "some people can make a sow's ear out of a silk purse". This coat will be on the dog for years to come if it is cultivated properly, so I can't stress enough, the sooner you start using the right 6.5 pH chemically balanced shampoo products and conditioning the coat of your puppy and learn how to groom correctly. the sooner your dog will have a competitive show coat and you will reap the benefits,

Apply [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) (with sunscreen) before the dogs goes outdoors or in the field. This will assure that the coat is protected with lubricates to shield the hair shaft against the harsh environments in the field; along with preventing any sun bleaching and damage. Many people are afraid to add any oil to a dog that is out in dirt. It is true that oil will attract dirt. [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) oil has light refined flower oil's that only lightly coat the hair shaft for **protection**. Any dirt that the coat does come into contact with, will wash off easily with one pH balanced [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#). When out in the elements, it is essential to protect the coat from dirt and grime; along with assessing in easy removal of twigs and branches. So don't be afraid to use [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) even if you dog lives outdoor or in dirt; it will wash out easily. [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) does not come off on your furniture or carpets. By shampooing first with [Summerwinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#) (to remove any buildup on the coat), and let it soak for 15 minutes (this is a must at least every 3rd to 4th bath). Rinse well, follow with [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) and let soak for 5 minutes. Depending on how oily the dog's coat is, you may want to shampoo a second time with [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) in between when you are not starting with [Summerwinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#) and rinse well. Apply diluted [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine Cream Rinse](#) and leave in for maximum conditioning treatment. Rinse out for some oily coats, which every works best for your dogs finished look. We do not recommend [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) for show grooms. The oil in [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) may leave an oily appearance on the coat and would not achieve the finished show coat look. But it is a must to use [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) for maintenance bathing in between shows.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE BATHING:

- 1.) First, put the dog on the table and go through the coat to see if there are any large mats or foreign objects caught in the dog's coat, (i.e., sticks and twigs, etc.) Remove them if you find any; carefully so as not to break too much coat. Lightly and carefully brush out any mats that you find. It is **not** a good idea to dry brush out a dirty coat, especially dried urine in the coat, this will cause undo breakage. Once the coat is shampooed and cream rinsed, the coat will be easier to brush and comb though and mats with less coat loss. Take the dog to the tub.
- 2.) **Standing up in the tub method:** Start with rinsing the coat with lukewarm water completely saturating the coat. This can take some time to get the water thoroughly through a thick curly coat.

- 3.) Or: **Lying down method:** If I am using a conventional tub, I like to train the dog to lie down in the tub. Fill the tub with water up to about 1/3 of the dogs rear hock while he is standing. Pour the [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) or [Summerwinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#) or [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine Cream Rinse](#) or [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) (which ever product you are using), full strength (about the same dilution as you would dilute each product in water according to the bottle direction) into the tub water. With your hand, stir to mix the product into the water. Now have the dog lie down in the tub and while soaking the dog in the tub water and product mixture. Scoop the water mixture over and over the dog. This way saves a lot of time. The dog will probably fight you the first couple of times you try to get them to lay down in the tub water; that is why it is a good idea to start them out laying down in tub when they are puppies. **Teaching the dog to lie down in the tub.** Kneel down in front of the tub facing the side of dog that is standing in the tub of water mixer. Hold the dog's shoulder with your right hand and gently push his shoulder away from you (this will cause him to be off balance); then at the same time you have a hold of the dog's rear hock (the farthest one from you), and gently pulling him/her towards you and this will cause the dog to loose his standing balance and he/she will lie down. Now he will probably try and jump back up fast, so quickly hold down the shoulders and hindquarters and tell him/her to stay. Assuring him/her that he/she is okay. Like I said, it may take a couple of times before they get the idea of what you want and that he/she is not going to go complete under the water and drown. This method does save a lot of time because instantly the dog's coat is completely wet, plus you have applied the shampoo or condition to the coat at the same time.
- 4.) **Standing method,** If the coat has any buildup from styling products or other brand products used prior, use [Summerwinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#) as directed. Followed by applying another [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn](#) 6.5 pH balanced [Shampoo](#) (diluted as instructed) to remove dirt and any oil or product buildup from the coat. Lather, working in the water mixture by squeezing the coat in a downward motion (being careful not to tangle the coat), completely over the dog's entire body. **Or,** If using the **Lying down method:** follow the direction above, add [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) full strength into the water and have him lie down in the shampoo and water mixture and scoop it over him repeatedly. Let soak for a minimum of three (3) minutes. Make sure that the coat is super clean before you condition. Rinse out [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) with lukewarm water. If you have a shower sprayer attachment on your shower, it is easy to rinse the dog with clear water completely rinsing out all the shampoo. Water is good for the skin and helps to re-hydrate.
- 5.) Next, apply [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine Cream Rinse](#) (diluted). Apply to entire dog. **Or** if using the **Lying down method;** follow the direction above, and pour full strength [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) into the tub. Then lie dog down in the tub, scoop the water and [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) over the dog repeatedly. Allow the dog to soak for a minimum of three (3) minutes. You may choose to leave [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) in the coat and do not rinse. Or rinse out [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) completely according to the dogs type of coat and condition. Whatever works best on each individual dog. You will know by trying it both ways and decide for yourself. I like the result when I leave the product in the coat for some of my dogs (for a deep conditioning treatment), and I like the way the coat combs out better on some of my other dogs when the [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) is completely rinsed out. This is mostly determined by the texture and the amount of coat the dog has. Thick, fine, curly coats detangle easier when all products are removed. Dry, damaged, coarser coats work well when the product is left in the coat. You will have to figure out which is the best method for each of your individual dogs.
- 6.) Finally apply [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) (diluted), [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) is an oil conditioner that we use to condition, protect, and restore elasticity to damaged coats. [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) is also used as a

preventative treatment to preserve and protect coats that are in good condition. [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) is recommended for conditioning treatments and maintenance grooming. We **do not** recommend you use [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) for **show grooming** because it can leave the coat oily. **Dilution**, I cannot tell you the exact dilution parts per water due to so many variables, coat type and different texture factors, and how and where the dog lives, and what kind of condition the dog's coat is in. You will have to use your own judgment and experiment until you find just the right amount of dilution for each of your own dogs. This could be anywhere from 1 Tablespoon to as much as a 1 Cup or more of [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) to 5 gallons or more of water. I wish I could be more help here, but it's impossible without seeing the dog in person to get the right dilution for each different dog (not to mention breeds.) Some people will use [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) full strength on some areas, such as the ears tips (when wrapping) and loin area of a male to prevent urine staining, and anywhere you want extra protection. **Standing method**, pour the diluted mixture over all the dogs long coat **or** if **Laying down method** follow the above directions and scoop the diluted [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) over head, ears, neck, shoulder, front and back legs, side coat and brisket, and tail completely saturating. Oil's will cause old skin cells to slough off, making way for new fresh cells, which is a good thing for the skin. You don't want to see dry flakes in the dog's saddle.

- 7.) **Hot Towel Treatment:** For a really **deep conditioning treatment** (whenever you can), wrap your dog in towels and let it sit 10 to 15 minutes with [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#). You can even warm the towels in the tumble dryer first to get the full warm impact! This is a good time to clean your dog's ears, cut his toenails and clean teeth while you are waiting. As we describe in the [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) information sheet on how to use [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#), you can now rinse all of the [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) out with warm water. The towel will cause the coat to clump and stick together a little so when deep conditioning treatment with towel, rinse extra well with lukewarm water. When you rinse out the [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) with warm water, the conditioner agents in the product will rinse out leaving the refined flower oils remaining in the coat and protecting the coat until shampooed out. Or leave [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) in the coat and do not rinse out for another way to deeper condition. In this method, the warming towels are not necessary because Protect-A-Coat remains in the coat until the next bath. Again, you must decide which is best for each dog's coat. I put [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) and [Summerwinds Protect A Coat](#) **in together** and dilute them, to save time, by only doing one procedure instead of two. This is up to you. I then let the product soak on the dog for a minimum of three (3) minutes and everything else is the same as the above procedure. Many of the Poodle groomers will dilute [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) and put it in a spray bottle and spray it on the dry or wet coat.
- 8.) **Grooming Table Time:** Now it's time after you have bathed the dog, to take him to the grooming table. Once you've hooked him to the grooming arm. Squeeze out as much water as possible, then towel dry him to remove as much excess water as possible. Being careful not to tangle the hair in a circular motion. Always try squeezing the hair in the towel in a downward motion. Again, there are many different opinions on how to groom. Some people like to groom the dog out totally when he is till damp. That is my preference. Others, would rather start blow drying and brushing the dog dry. I will admit that if you have tight mats in the dog's coat, the heat from the drier will help loosen the hair some. But blow-drying the dog with heat can be very drying and will damage coat if you continually blow dry. Dryers are one thing that damages coats the worse. The heat damages the elasticity and opens the cuticle layer. An open cuticle is more subject to breakage. So for maintenance grooming, I prefer to brush and then comb thoroughly through the coat until I am sure I haven't missed any mats. If it's a warm day, let the dog air-dry. If it's a cool day, put a towel in the bottom of a crate and crate dry him. I have walk in driers, but crate drying works almost as well. Then after he is totally dry, put him back on the table and run the brush through him again, finishing with a thorough combing

to make sure you didn't miss any mats. Wrap or band ears or any other area's you wish. You are done until his next bath.

SHOW GROOM:

- 1) The show groom is done very much the same as the above maintenance bath. If you are not using [Summerwinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#), you may want to use a second [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) if the dog is extremely dirty, or if you have added a heavy dilution of [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) and you think he is extra oily. The first shampoo will remove most all dirt or oil but leave the dog's natural oil in the dog's coat. A Poodle, un-like some of the sporting breeds, doesn't have that many sebaceous glands or natural oils dander. That is why people who are allergic to dog's dander can tolerant being around the Afghan, Poodle and other drier coated dogs. I recommend the less you shampoo, the better. On the show groom, you will not apply the [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#).
- 2) You will apply [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine Cream Rinse](#) (diluted) follow whatever works best for your individual dog. Rinse out [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#). Very Lightly condition as needed. You want to have maximum body in the coat. Some people will advise to not use a cream rinse conditioner because they feel it will soften the coat. I disagree; the main purposes for using cream rinse is the restore the pH acidity after shampooing with an alkaline-based shampoo. Hair and skin are acid and do not like being in an alkaline condition. By using a light diluted mixture of [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#), and then thoroughly rinsing out the product. This will condition the skin and hair and not leaving the coat too soft. All of this you will have to figure out what is best for each individual dog. Sometimes leaving the [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) in the coat will help to reduce static. Do some test grooms on non-grooms, until you find what works best. Wring out the dog's coat as much as you can to remove excess water in the tub; squeezing in a downward motion.
- 3) Put the dog back on the table. If you are using the **standing method** hook his collar to the grooming arm. Now start the drying process. Use [Summerwinds Stat-A-Way Spray](#) when brushing and combing. This will reduce the static and add moisture to the hair. [Summerwinds Stat-A-Way Spray](#) helps keep the elasticity and moisture in the hair. Start with the show side first. If the dog is standing, aim the blow drier at the top dogs side and working downward (water will run from the top of the dog to the feet). With the drier nozzle pointed at the dog's coat, start brushing the coat with a pin brush directly under the drier nozzle. The brush should glide easily through the coat. Once that section of coat is dry, move down the leg or body. Start the next section in the same manor until the entire dog is thoroughly dry. Make sure that the finished dog is completely dry to the skin with no damp spots on the elbows, behind ears or underbelly. Dampness will cause the coat to mat faster. Now that the dog is thoroughly dry, run the comb through the entire body making sure that the dog is mat free. Go through the finished coat with a steel comb with long teeth and a cool airflow on your dryer. The cool air helps close the cuticles layer and relaxes the hair from the harsh heat from the blow dryer...
- 4) He/she is now ready for the final show prep and he/she is ready for the show ring. Your job now is to keep him/her clean until the show(s) are over. This is where different methods are used. Banding of hair, Leggings for males that will urinate on the back of their front legs and several different leg protections.

After Bath to Remove Products:

Shampoo with [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) and let soak for about 10 to 15 minutes to remove any hairspray, chalk, etc. Rinse out thoroughly.

Condition with both [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine](#) and [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#). Leave in or rinse out which ever you find to work best.

This is just TWATR... The World According To Rosemary. If you have any suggestions or comments or additional hints I would like to hear them.

We welcome any helpful hints, techniques or articles you use that you would like to share.

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