

Summerwinds

Helpful hints on Bathing and Grooming Harsh Wiry Coated Breeds



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There are many different breeds that carry a harsh coat, such as the Wire Coated Dachshunds, but most are found in the Terrier breeds. There are several types of Terriers. Some have soft coats, others have hard, wiry coats, and some have both. Short or long legged, all terriers have very similar grooming steps. The only difference in most is the cut on the head.

The soft coated terriers, like the Yorkshire, Skye, Silky and Tibetan Terriers, all have a parted back and very natural look. Their coats are grown long and require a great deal of attention, no different than an Afghan hounds coat.

Stripping with the aid of a stripping knife, and plucking done by hand by using the fingers and fingertips. Stripping is mandatory for Terriers that will be shown in a dog show. The purpose is to remove dry, dead hair and maintain the natural texture of the coat. The best time to strip is during the blowing coat stage while the coat is falling out naturally. Never use clippers on a coat that requires stripping if you intend on showing your Terrier. Stripping consists of gripping a small amount of hair on the blade of a stripping knife held down with your thumb and pulling the dead hairs out of the coat. Pull the hair straight out and don't bend the hair, pull up or twist your wrist as this will break the hair instead of removing only the dead hair. Always pull the hair in the direction it grows. Plucking the hair with four fingers will achieve the look with the use of tools. If you hold the skin taut, it helps to remove the hair quickly and won't allow the skin to be pulled up as you go along.

The wiry harshness of these coats takes extra care in grooming. Many of the Terrier people do not use cream rinses or conditioners because they are afraid of softening the hair. Understand that cream rinse and or conditioners will only stay in the coat until the next shampoo. What Terrier people are missing is by using [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine Cream Rinse](#) after using [Summerwinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#) or [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) will help to restore the dogs natural pH balance that closes the cuticle layer on the hair shaft and keeps the hair from breaking and becoming brittle. There are many grooming preparations that can be put topically on the dogs coats after bathing such as bodifiers, chalks, etc. This helps to give texture and feel that is desired for that breed without causing damage to

the hair. All hair needs conditioning to maintain the elasticity and moisture in the coat from harsh topical chemicals applied. [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) can be used to maintain the strength in the coat and will help to cut back on the coat needing to be stripped so often. It's hard to break old habits that are taught to Terrier owners and breeders for many years. Just because you have a wiry harsh coated breed, doesn't mean your dog's coat shouldn't be in a healthy, shiny condition.

Bathe furnishings once per week (at least) with [Summerwinds Shine Onnn Shampoo](#) diluted 15 oz. Water to 1 oz concentrate. Rinse well. After apply [Summerwinds Fine-L-Shine Cream Rinse](#) 15 oz. Water to 1 oz. Concentrate. Rinse/Spray [Summerwinds Stat-A-Way Spray](#) on the coat to protect the hair from wear and breakage. The jacket of a stripped Terrier should be bathed as needed by using [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#). The coat should be conditioned in [Summerwinds Protect-A-Coat](#) 1 oz to a gallon of water. Let it sit on the coat for 3 to 5 minutes. Then rinse out.

For Show Bathing: Use [Summerwinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#) treatment to remove any buildup every 3rd or 4th bath. Diluted 5-parts water to 1-part shampoo, leave on the coat for 10 minutes. Rinse out completely and follow with [Summerwinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#) and let sit on the coat for 3 minutes. Rinse out completely. This will remove any buildup and allows for maximum body and fullness. Bathe furnishings after show to remove any chalk or other grooming preparation.

[Summerwinds Stat-A-Way](#) finishing spray will add moisturizer and control static electricity, this helps to prevent breakage. Finally, before going into the ring, spray [Summerwinds Stat-A-Way Spray](#) over the top of the dog's head and top-line, wait a few minutes and brush vigorously with a bristle brush to set coat and tame any unruly hairs.

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.

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