## Guide Dogs for the Blind logo

## Grooming Workshop

In addition to keeping your dog looking good, daily grooming routine is important for your dog’s general health. Regular grooming can minimize the amount of dog hair in your home and lessen irritations that cause a dog to scratch. Grooming is not just about combing and brushing your dog’s coat, but is also an opportunity for you to go over your dog's entire body. If you set up a routine and make a habit of grooming your dog, you only need to spend about 10 minutes a day. Your dog’s double coat protects him in both cold and hot weather. A double coat consists of an undercoat and an outer coat, also called a guard coat. The undercoat consists of short, soft, wooly hair that repels water and dirt. Both coats will shed slightly throughout the year. A suitable place to groom your dog while in class is outside on a porch or patio. Use a wastebasket or bag to collect the hair. Groomingshould be a relaxing time for your dog. Your dog can sit, stand or lay on his side.

Grooming Technique

1. **Zoom Groom**

The Zoom Groom™ loosens dead hair and brings dirt to the surface and stimulates the oil glands. Use the Zoom Groom in circular motions, going both with and against the natural lay of the hair.

1. **Slicker Brush**

The slicker brush reaches the undercoat with its fine metal bristles. Brush with the lay of the coat, from behind your dog'shead to his hindquarters.Be sure to brushthe feathering on the rear of the legs and chest.

**3) Comb**

The comb collects loose hair. Brush with the lay of the coat, from behind your dog'shead to his hindquarters.Be sure to combthe feathering on the rear of the legs and chest.

Do not use the comb on your dog’s face or bony parts of the legs. It is possible to scratch the dog's skin with the metal teeth if too much pressure is applied.

**4) Rub and Stroke Your Dog All Over**

This feels good to him and helps you detect any abrasions, lumps, etc.

**5) Wash Cloth**

To finish the grooming session, moisten the wash cloth (from your fanny pack) and wipe your dog’s muzzle, eyes and skull going from front to back.

**6) Remove Hair from your Grooming Articles**

Miscellaneous Tips

* Feathering behind ears, on the backsides of legs and arm pits and on the tail can develop mats if not maintained. Pay special attention to these areas if your dog has a longer coat.
* A dog's tail is generally very sensitive; be gentle when grooming it.
* Your dog’s undercoat protects the skin especially in temperature extremes and from sunburn. Clipping a dog removes the undercoat.
* Grooming equipment can be washed in warm, soapy water. Rinse thoroughly and air dry.
* Many dog people use inexpensive sticky roller brushes to remove hair from your clothes. A strip of masking tape can also be used in a pinch.