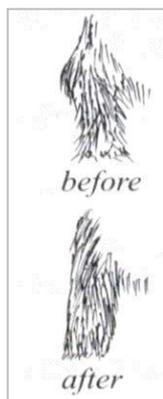
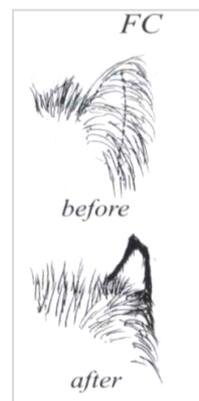




Grooming a Cairn

I asked Carole Templeton, the successful and experienced breeder and shower of the Larchlea Cairns, if she could suggest to new (and perhaps some not so new!) puppy owners how to maintain their Cairn's coat. Here she gives some helpful advice.

I usually start by stripping a puppy's ears before he goes to his new home, putting a little grooming chalk on them and pulling the hair quickly, going in the direction that the hair grows. When the puppy is about 12 weeks old, pull out the darker hair on the puppy's back that is long and fine. Put chalk on this and gently brush it up the wrong way. Then quickly pull out all the hair that is standing up. Speak to the puppy all the time to try to make this a little enjoyable.



I try to put the puppy on the table every couple of days, sometimes just brushing him and talking quietly to him, and other days taking out any long hairs. Also tidy the legs, again by taking out any very long hairs and trimming around the feet and between the pads. Don't pull out **all** the leg hair. Always keep the nails short. If you trim them regularly it will not be a problem.

When the puppy gets to about nine months the coat starts to look a little messy, especially around the head and neck. Shape the head by pulling out any hairs that stand out and blend into the rest of the coat. When the puppy is about a year to thirteen months old it should have its new coat coming in. It is then a matter of, every week, brushing all the coat up the wrong way and pulling any hair that stays standing up. It could take about an hour to do this. Keep brushing the coat and looking at what you have done to make sure that the dog's back is looking level.

**Grooming a Cairn by Carole Templeton
(Article 2007 CTC Year Book)**

The head hair can be brushed forward and, taking out all the very long hairs around the face, try to get it into a round shape. Never use scissors or stripping knives as this ruins the coat. Brush all the head hair forward and take out all the long hairs that touch the nose, being careful not to take all the hair out as this can ruin the expression. To shorten the hair on the muzzle, again brush the hair forward and shorten it by pulling the long ones back towards the body (this is a very sensitive area).



The hind legs sometimes get quite full and fluffy so again brush up the wrong way and keep pulling the hair down towards the ground until it all blends in.

The tail can make all the difference to how a Cairn looks, so make sure it does not resemble a Christmas tree! Try to keep it short, leaving the hair a little longer at the base and shortening towards the top so that it resembles an upside down carrot. This is a very sensitive area and dogs generally do not like getting this done, so hold the tail firmly when shaping. Again this is easier with grooming chalk.

Finally, if you want to prepare your dog for the show ring remember this: it does not matter what you see others doing **DO NOT** put any substance in the dog's coat such as soap or any kind of spray as it looks artificial, is against Kennel Club rules, and is a form of cheating. A Cairn should have a good quality coat that does not require such aids and people who resort to this obviously have a dog whose coat is not correct.

I hope all this will be of some help.

**Carole Templeton
Larchlea**