



From fluff to fab

by Janice Preiss

Normally the Saluki coat requires little grooming – a brushing of the feathering and a slick over the body with a hound glove. However, when Salukis are spayed or neutered they often grow very thick fuzzy coats. If you get at the coat as the fuzz starts to come in, and either hand pluck, use a shedding blade or use a terrier stripping comb, it is possible to keep it under control.

Sometimes, though, it just gets away on us, or the coat grows so thick that clipping the coat may be the only alternative. Or perhaps you're like me – always looking for a quicker, easier way out! I started doing this (albeit secretly) with 'Phantom' many, many years ago. She was a tri with a thick coat, who even grew a topknot like an Afghan. Twenty minutes with the clippers made her look like a Saluki again.



1

Starting at the top of the head, about two inches behind the eyes, clip about a two-inch strip down the middle of the head, using a 7F clipper blade. The ears should be high and mobile, so you don't want the setter look – you want ears that blend into the head. Continue down the back of the neck and along the back to the base of the tail. If the Saluki is boney, it's helpful to pull the skin away to the side from the spine to get a smoother clip.

2

Clip down the sides of the body. With a number 10, clip the stomach area. You want to achieve the look of a small waist, and long hair tends to grow in this area.



PHOTOS: PATTY MILTON



3

Clip from the breastbone down. The feet may be clipped with a #10 under the pads, but never clip the hair on the top of the foot.

With your 7F, again clip down the front of the legs (only the front of the legs, never the back, as the Saluki has furnishings that are part of the standard, and the hair will be longer at the elbow). Also, leave the hair on the front of the neck; it's a natural ruff. If you clip the neck from the back around to where there is a change in hair pattern and the ruff begins, you will better be able to tell where to stop clipping.

4



Now the back legs. Same as the front – clip the fronts, but leave the back furnishings. If you go from front to back, you can blend in the feathering rather than have an abrupt change from short to long. The area between the legs can be clipped, if the coat is profuse, as long as it can't be seen from behind. The hair on either side of the tail (at the base of the tail) is short, until you come to the natural beginning of the rear feathering. There is a horizontal line, when the Saluki is viewed from the rear, that is an upside down "U" shape. The tail is not touched.

5



6

Finishing If the furnishings are thick, you may thin them with thinning shears down the back of the legs and on the ruff. Normally, the ears and tail are not thinned. The hair underneath and on the back of the ears may be thinned but never clipped.

