

GROOMING TIPS

Groom your dog on a regular basis. In general, brush *toward* the head or from the belly toward the top of the back. Hold one hand against the fur while you brush away from that hand with the brush. Puppies should be at least every other day until they have their full guard-hair coat (5-6 months). (This also gets the pup use to being handled and groomed). From then on, they should be brushed every week or two. This will take about 15-20 minutes. Always carefully check the fine hair behind the ears. This is the one area that can mat badly. Work out any mats with the end-tine of a comb. *Do not* cut the mat out unless it is so large that is the only way to remove it.



Always brush your keeshond out before giving him or her a bath. The mats bind tighter in water. Teach your puppy to lie on its side while you are grooming. As the dog gets older, it is much easier to groom lying on its side than standing up. Puppies can be groomed with a slicker brush until the longer coat begins to come in. It then becomes easier to groom with a large headed pin brush and a long toothed comb. Continue to use the slicker on the hocks and behind the ears.

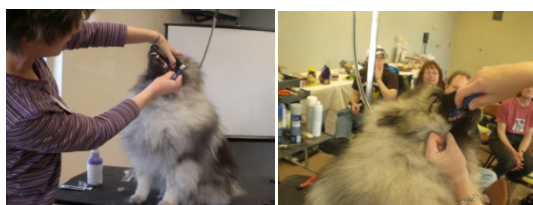
Blowing coat - At approximately 12-14 months of age the dog will begin to shed its undercoat. It is important that this dead hair be removed in a timely manner. One of the greatest tools ever invented is the Teflon-coated *undercoat rake*. When the dog is blowing coat, the undercoat rake will make quick work of removing the loose hair. If the dead coat is not removed, it mats and can be difficult to deal with, as it then becomes painful to the dog to have the matted coat removed. Matted fur can be removed by using the tip of the comb. Hold the comb in the hand as you would a knife, with the index finger extending along the top of the comb. Draw the end of the comb nearest the tip of the index finger through the matted area several times. When the mat is broken up, use the pin brush to go over the matted area. The regular weekly brushing should take care of keeping the coat in good condition.

Males and females tend to blow coat once a year, plus the unspayed females will usually drop some coat with each season.

NEVER LET ANYONE TALK YOU INTO SHAVING YOUR DOG!!!! The Keeshonds double coat insulates it against both cold **AND** heat. Shaving the coat will mess up the dogs natural cooling system and is extremely harmful to the skin. I've seen many shaved Keeshonden come through the rescue system that **NEVER** grow a full coat back in again. You've got a beautiful *coated* dog, please keep him/her that way!!

TEETH CARE

Teeth should be brushed daily with a dog toothpaste. Plan on a yearly dental with your veterinary along with their wellness bloodwork.



FEET AND NAILS

The nails should be kept trimmed short - trim once a week. The dogs nails should not "click" when it walks across a hard surface. The fur on the bottom of the pads should be trimmed even with the pad. Trim the fur on the top of the foot so that it generally conforms to the shape of the foot by rounding it. The fur on the back of the front feet and on the hock can be trimmed slightly to give a neat appearance.



GROOMING EQUIPMENT

slicker brush

large-headed *soft* oval pin brush

long toothed comb (Greyhound)

scissors (barber or similar type)

thinning shears (optional for feet)

baby powder or talcum powder

Nailclippers

spray bottle

self-rinse shampoo

a quality *dog* shampoo(don't use people shampoos)

a quality conditioner

old bath towels

Teflon-coated undercoat rake



BATHING

Puppies tend to get dirty easily and can be bathed fairly often, although not more than once a week, unless the pup gets into something awful! When the dog matures it will only need to be bathed 2-3 times per year, unless you're showing, then bathing will be more frequent. The usual time for bathing is after removing all the dead hair when the dog is blowing coat. **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER** bathe a Keeshond without grooming the dog first!! If the dog happens to be shedding and you haven't realized it, you will have a *real mess* on your hands and a painful grooming session for your dog!

FAST CLEAN-UP

There are a number of "self-rinsing" shampoos on the market now which can be used for quick clean-ups. If the dog has a bout of diarrhea and soils the "pants or trousers", give the area a heavy spraying with the self-rinse shampoo, and then clean the area with paper towels. This not only

cleans the stain, but also removes the odor. Another quick fix for soiled "pants" is baby powder. Liberally apply the baby powder to the fresh stain and then brush it out with a slicker brush.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

6 foot leather lead

White Pine soft slip collar or a rolled leather collar www.whitepineoutfitter.com

16-18 inch nylon choke collar for training (collar should just easily slip over the dogs head)

NEVER LEAVE A CHOKE COLLAR ON A DOG! A choke collar is just that, and should be used only for training and then removed!

Wire crate (18 x 22 x 30 approx.) or a Vari-Kennel airline type crate (#300 or Intermediate size)

A crate is *invaluable* for house training your puppy and keeping them out of mischief while you're gone. It's also the safest way to carry your dog in the car. If the dog is going to be shown, it will need to be accustomed to being crated while at the show and while being transported to and from the show.

Rectal thermometer

Vaseline (coat the end of thermometer to ease insertion)

Simple Solution by Outright stain and odor remover. This removes urine stains and odors from carpets, etc. This product works very well and is available at most pet supply stores. There are also other similar type products that can be used.

QuikStop or styptic powder. This is used to stop the bleeding from a nail if you inadvertently cut into the quick.