

Grooming the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

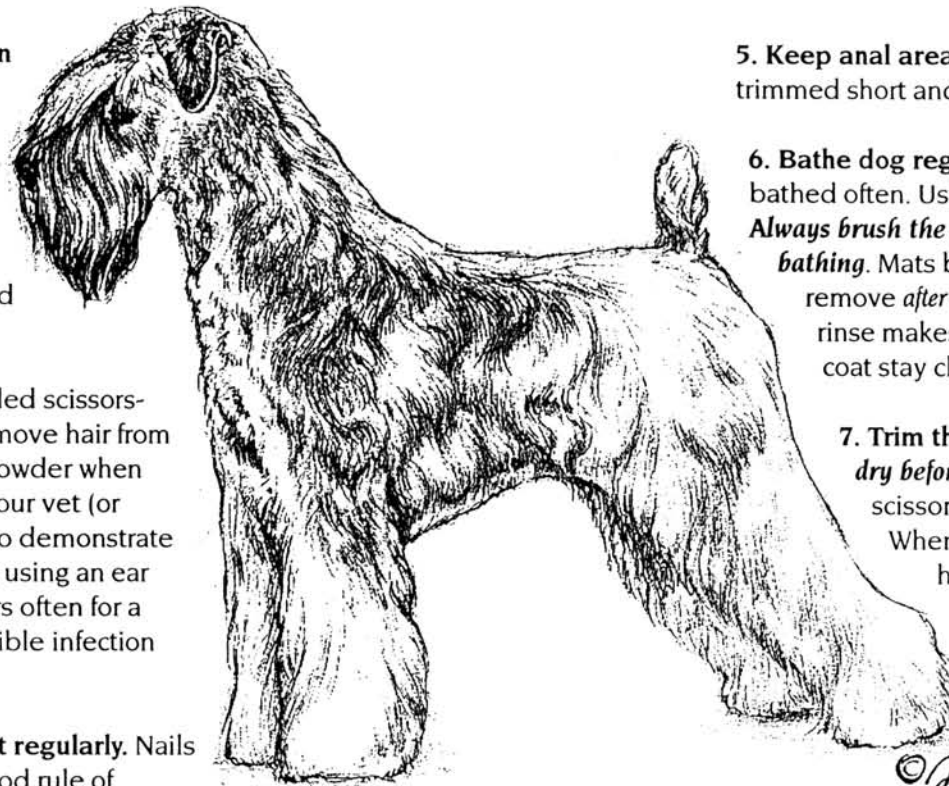
Basic trim and grooming techniques for the companion dog—with notes on show trimming*

1. Brush and comb out the Wheaten regularly. Mist lightly with water or grooming spray throughout combing or brushing. Comb at least once a week *to the skin* for both puppy and adult coats, and daily during adolescent-to-adult coat transition (which begins at about 9 months and lasts for several months).

2. Keep ears clean. Use blunt ended scissors-type tweezers or hairmostats to remove hair from ear canals. Some people use ear powder when pulling hair out of dog's ears. Ask your vet (or breeder or professional groomer) to demonstrate this process for you, and ask about using an ear cleaning solution as well. Smell ears often for a strong yeasty odor, indicating possible infection requiring veterinary care.

3. Trim nails and clean/check feet regularly. Nails left too long can damage feet. A good rule of thumb: if you can hear nails as your dog walks on a hard surface floor, his/her nails are too long. File nails if clipping is too traumatic. Trim excess hair from bottom of feet with blunt ended scissors. Use caution to avoid nipping skin between toes.

4. Check/clean eyes daily.



5. Keep anal area clean. Keep hair in this area trimmed short and check often for cleanliness.

6. Bathe dog regularly. Wheatens can (should) be bathed often. Use only products designed for dogs. *Always brush the dog out thoroughly just before bathing.* Mats become much more difficult to remove *after* a bath. Following up with a creme rinse makes comb-out easier and helps the coat stay cleaner longer. Rinse coat thoroughly.

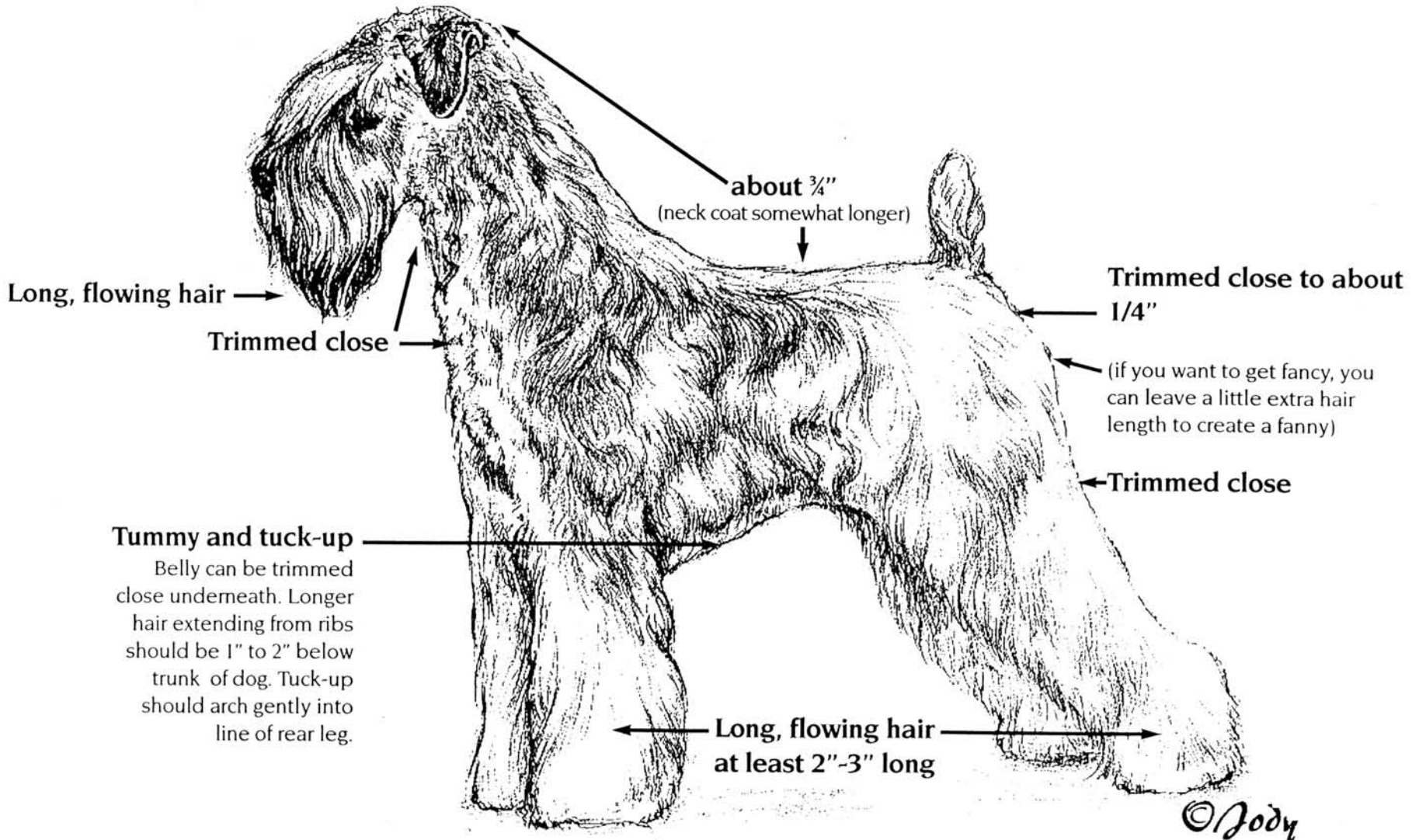
7. Trim the dog. Always bathe dog and blow-dry before trimming. A dirty dog will dull scissors and will not be easy to trim neatly. When using blow dryer, fluff the dog's hair as you go...the fluffier the better. Trim and shape every 4-6 weeks.

8. Care for teeth. Discuss this with your vet. Pet supply stores carry a number of products to help you clean your dog's teeth. Or you might want to try this method: wrap a gauze pad around your finger, dip it in beef or chicken broth and then in baking soda. Wipe the dog's teeth and polish as much as possible. Dental care needs to be done regularly to be effective. *You'll need to acquaint the dog gradually with this process until he/she accepts it.*

* This guide was prepared and donated to the SCWTCA, Inc.
by the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater St. Louis.

basic overall outline

(demonstrating relationship of hair length to actual body of dog)

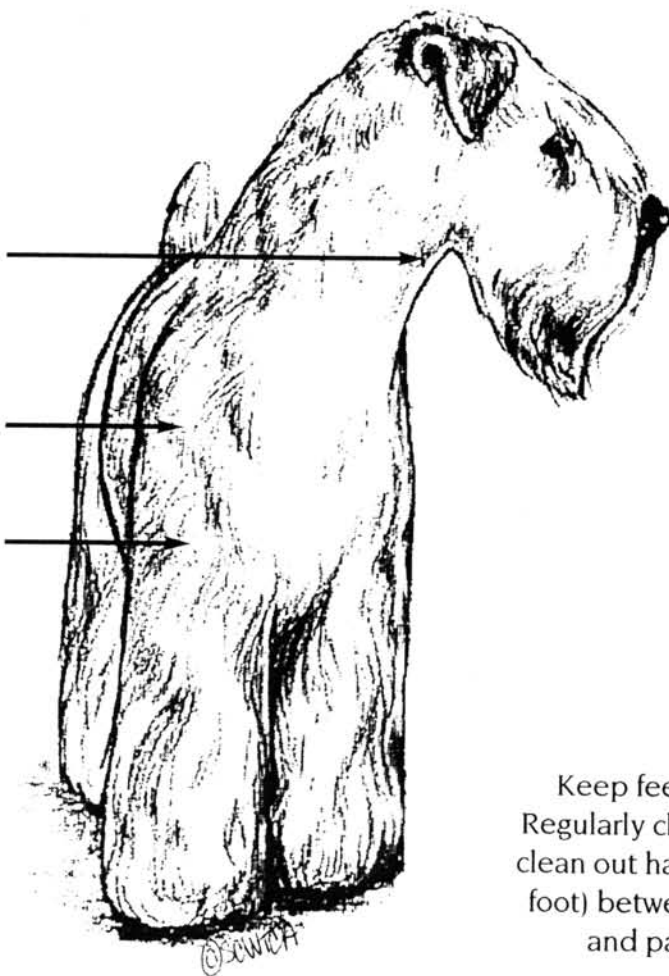


front view

Leave about 1/4"
on throat and
under chin

Think in terms of
clean, straight
lines with hair
about 3/4" long

Begin blending
into longer
hair... think of
legs as columns.



Keep feet tidy.
Regularly check and
clean out hair (under
foot) between toes
and pads.

rear view

Tail: think of a tidy
little Christmas tree!

Clean underside of
tail and keep anal
and genital areas
tidy.

Clean lines on legs;
3/4" hair length on
hips, blending into
longer flowing hair
on leg furnishings.

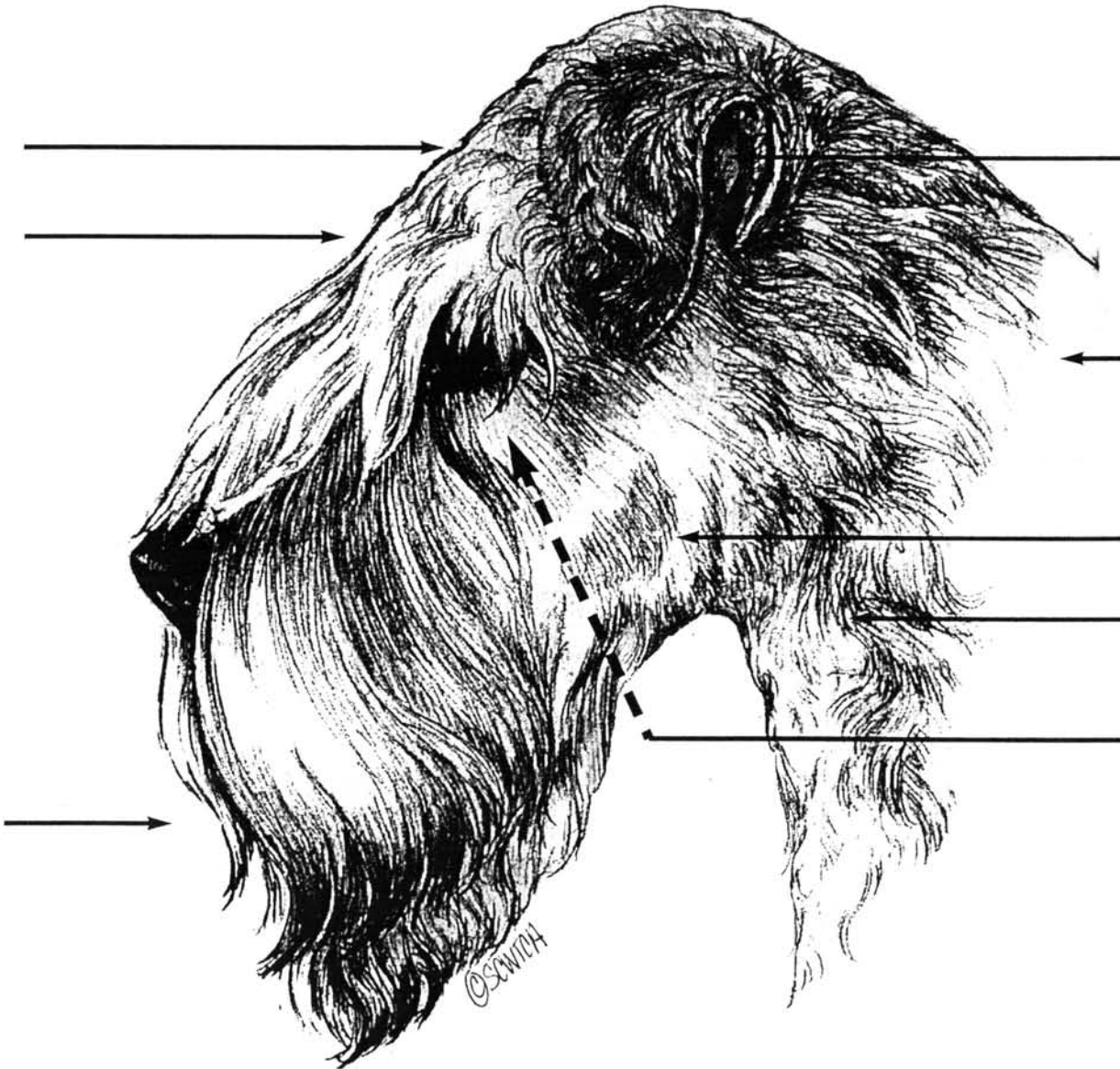


head: side view

Forehead: "Butch cut" look at $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " length-very tidy

Fall: Begins slightly above eye with hair long and silky to nose. For companion dog trim, expose outer half of eyes and let fall cover inner half. Use thinners to blend hair around outer eye so look isn't too harsh. (Show trims usually don't expose as much eye.)

Beard: Keep beard length tidy. Too long looks goat-like and out of balance. Too short destroys "Wheaten look".



Ears: Clean out (pluck hair from canal). Trim hair around edge of ear up to ear leather. Tip: Hold ear in one hand, using thumb-nail up against leather to protect ear from scissors as you trim. Use thinning shears to tip overall length of hair on ear and blend into hair on top of skull.

Neck hair: Can be longer than $\frac{3}{4}$ ", depending on personal preference. (For show trim, leave more length on back of neck.)

Cheek and throat: clean area illustrated to about $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Blend: short throat hair and longer neck hair blend here.

Beard: begin beard at about center of eye, making sure beard covers the corner of the dog's mouth.

head: front view

Top of head: Create a slightly curved line across the top of the head, blending the hair on the top portion of ears with the hair on top of the skull. Then, trim sides of face by picturing a straight line down each side of the dog's face.

Eyes: Outer half of eye can be trimmed clear of hair for companion dog, *feathered over eye for show trim.*

Fall : Trim in from mid-eye and taper slightly in toward nose for a neat look. Keep fall soft and natural—avoid sharp visor look.



The end result: As you work, whether it's on the head or the body of the dog, keep a picture of the finished dog in your mind and take an occasional look at the side you have already done to make sure you are creating balance. Try to keep both sides symmetrical.

Note on show trims: If you are considering showing your dog, avoid over-trimming these areas:

*the back of the neck;
the fall above eyes;
the leg furnishings; and
the tuck up, or longish side coat
where the back leg joins the
body.*

For more information:
Please refer to the additional materials available through the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, Inc.