

### THOSE TOLLER EARS...

The Toller's ear should be set high and well back on the skull, base held slightly erect, framing the face and of medium length with the leather very clean looking.

Many Tollers have hair behind the ears that tends to grow long and, which in time overshadows the clean look of the ear.

To pluck behind the ears, place your Toller in a relaxed position (laying down on its side is usually good). Gently pull ear forward with one hand and with the other, grasp several strands of hair from behind the ear between the thumb and fore finger. Gently pull out. Do this until the remaining hair is the length you want.

Remember... only a few hairs at a time! If the dog gets fretful, stop and play for a bit, then continue on.



### THOSE TOLLER TOES...



Tollers can develop a dreadful case of 'grinch toes.' Hair between the webbed toes and around the paw pads tends to grow long and starts to stick out at all angles giving it a very shaggy appearance. Many owners prefer a cleaner looking foot.

Where dogs are exposed to snow, ice and heavy muddied areas, it becomes more than cosmetic. Clumps of ice and mud can get between pads and cause injury. Burrs from fields also become a menace and can get embedded between pads.

Grooming items you will need: Small, sharp scissors with ball tips (sometimes called nose/ear shears) and **LOTS OF PATIENCE!**

Trim the long hairs from around the pads by gently pulling them out and holding as you clip. Many dogs are ticklish and it might take a bit of getting used to on their part when feeling a foreign object against the pad. If the dog pulls its foot away, hold the leg firmly and talk to him/her as you are clipping around the pad and reassure them it's okay!



To trim the long hairs from the upper foot, gently run your finger above the webbing at the tip of the toes between them from front to back. Pull the long hairs up.

Trim and repeat until no long hairs come up. Be sure to trim around the outside of the foot to give them a clean look when the dog is standing.

Don't forget those long wispy hairs on the back of the front legs up from the foot about 2-3".



**HINT:** if your Toller is a bit short-legged in the front, be sure to trim as this will add visual length to the leg. If your Toller has a bit too much leg, only neaten the hair – this will give the visual appearance of less leg.

### BASIC TIPS & TRICKS:

- Start handling the feet of your Toller as soon as possible – as many times a day as possible to get them used to this. Once they are comfortable with this, introduce the scissors a 'snip' at a time;
- Give lots of praise and reassurance as you groom;
- Reward them with a high value treat when you finish, even if it's just a clip or two;
- Do it on a regular basis – less trimming is involved. Don't let it get away from you;
- A good time to groom the long hairs on the back of the ears is after a bath when the hair is damp. It seems to pluck easier.



DOs



DON'Ts

**DO...** give your Toller's coat a good brushing once a week. It will get rid of dead hairs and stimulate new coat growth.

**DO...** add a tablespoon of sunflower oil to your Toller's food if the coat appears to be dry and brittle in areas (on the back and by the base of the tail is a good area to check).

**DO...** walk your Toller on rough roads occasionally. It will help develop the foot and keep it tight.

**DON'T...** trim your Toller's tail! It should be full and bushy, not sculpted like a Golden Retriever's.

**DON'T...** trim the whiskers on your Toller's muzzle. Toller's use them when in the field to detect wind direction and protect their eyes.

**DON'T...** back-comb or add mousse to your Toller's coat to add artificial fullness.

*Special thanks to Ch Tradewinds Saltwater Taffy CDX WC for her patience!*

– Gretchen Botner, Tradewind Tollers