

The art of presenting a competitive show dog

By Rosemary Sutton



SummerWinds reserves all rights, no portion of this article may be reproduced in any media without their express written consent. ([Email](#))

INTRODUCTION: To the dog show world.

I have enjoyed and profited from the dog show industry in many ways both emotionally and financially.

Emotionally: Through all of my wonderful experiences, accomplishments, and good friendships together with a lot of fun times. Finding a passion I love that has fulfilled many of my dreams. It's allowed me to be able to enjoy my dogs in work and play.

Financially: Through the success of our SummerWinds Business that has supported us for 27 years. Plus, the handling of many dogs in different breeds professionally.

If you are taking the time to read this, I would presume that you have a dog maybe and Afghan or another long coated breed; or perhaps a curly or harsh wiry and even a short coated breed for that matter. Maybe your dog is a pet or a rescue that you and your family just love and don't show but enjoy seeing him in a beautiful coat and want to do the very best by him/her. Your dog might be a show dog that you think would be fun to show occasionally to try and make him/her a champion and are interested in learning how to train and groom him for the shows. At this stage, you would be called the hobbyist. You might find out that you will enjoy showing your dogs so much you have (as we say), been bitten by the dog show bug. If your dog is competitive and begins to win a lot, you may even experience an adofin rush that sometime accompanies a big win. Now I'm warning you; if this does happen to you, hang on tight because this is when the dog show sport or game, according to the terminology, becomes a whole new adventure. The sport of showing dogs is in itself is a subculture. We have our own rules, laws, language and terminology. You will quickly find that one dog isn't enough. Your house and car isn't big enough, and don't be surprised if you end up moving out in the country where you can have kennel facilities. According to how ambitious you become, your life is in for a big change. I call it "after I went to the dogs".

In my experience, the people we refer to as high profile people, those that win a lot and most people know of them, have many of the same things in common. They are very ambitious, committed, intense, driven constant, passionate, not to mentioned obsessed and not at all afraid of a little hard work. Of course, this would also apply to any high profile person in any field. No matter how ambitious you are or aren't, there is a place for you and your dog at the dog shows.

One of the blessings at this point in my life is to be able to share some of my experiences and knowledge gained over the many years of participating in the dog show industry. I have been called both an expert and an authority (among other things...oops). I am not sure if this is a fact, but what I have learned is that an expert is someone that lives a long ways away from you. So, what I am about to share are methods that I have found that work for me.

I purchased my first Afghan hound in 1968. Over many years of trial and error, I have found short cuts that gave me the same results as other methods that were very time consuming. Choosing the Afghan Hound breed alone is a very labor intense breed. If you too have chosen Afghans as your breed, let me warn you right now, you can find some short cuts, but truthfully, you are in for a ton of work and grooming. So you might as well get use to it. The acronym KISS (keep it simple stupid) means learn simple steps how to do it right, and it doesn't matter whom you learn it from as long as it works for you. Many years ago, I had a friend that use to say, "Check the Record" that would be the best advise I could give you. I took a little from this person and a little from another.

One of my favorite saying is, "when you're green you're growing, when you're ripe you rot!" I try and learn something new every day; as you are never too old or experienced to learn. What I love the most about a really sincere novice is their ambition, they are like mental sponges and so eager for information and want to learn all they can about how to groom and do it right and what products will give them the best results.

Anyone who knows me knows me well enough to not ask me a question if you don't want an in-depth answer. To say that detail and full explanations is my forte would be an understatement. Some people are very good at Reader Digest responses; there are others that like the "Gone With The Wind" type answer. For some of you who like to cut to the chase, I have made this article and its contents with subjects titles so you are able to skip over what you aren't interested in and still go away with a little more understanding and knowledge than before you took the time to try and read this. The rest is for those who always have a million more questions after I think I answered all of them. I have gone into more depth and detail for those with inquiring minds that "really want to know". I find that one of the hardest subjects to teach people are the subjects that they aren't inquisitive about; from the basics to the extravagant. Yet, they want to know how to complete a task and be good at it before they truly understand the whole structure of the project. If you understand the total basics of why something is like it is and how to keep it protected and remain in good condition, the easier it will be for you to accomplish your goal. My effort here is to try and share with you how to be a winner and give you the ability to exhibit and put down a dog in pristine coat condition, and well trained and behaved to make showing dogs a rewarding and pleasant experience for you and your dog.

Training, grooming and discipline and all things pertaining to cultivating and caring for a dog, and the proper method of achieving the best results is according to who you talk to and the different breeds you are talking about.

When discussing grooming and grooming products for example, in every breed you will find as many different opinions as you will find breeders, owners, handlers and groomers on how to achieve the best and easiest methods and products to cleanse, condition coat and skin, protect and de-mat coats to produce a competitive show coat in their breed. Let alone when we talk about so many different breeds and textures of coats from very fine, straight or curly to harsh and wiry to short and smooth with each breed standards describing what is the proper coat type for that breed. Your goal is achieve your breed's desired coat in the best way you can. What to believe and whose advice to follow can be a very puzzling dilemma for a novice. My advice here is to find someone you admire that has achieved what you want in your breed or just in general. You will be given a lot of advice, both free and sought after. A great place to start is from your breeder and if he/she is a good mentor. Find free advice, perhaps from a novice or a long-time breeder/owner or professional handler of who each might have a different way to groom, condition and protect coat. Your job is going to be to weed through all the advice and find out what's really truth or fiction. The fact is that I know many long-time breeders/owners that never really get how to put down a complete show coat. This can be the difference in your dog being a winner or a filer. A filer is a dog that attends each show event that never wins, but fills the class to make points for the dogs that do win. Your goal is for your dog not to become a filer due to your lack of knowledge and to be able to put down a dog in complete condition. Just because a dog has a long coat, doesn't mean the coat is in good healthy condition. It might be dull and faded. There are many ways to skin a cat so to speak. No

one-way is the best way and nothing is written in stone. Whatever it takes to achieve the results you will need to win is what you need to learn. And your goal should be to make you and your dog stand out from the others.

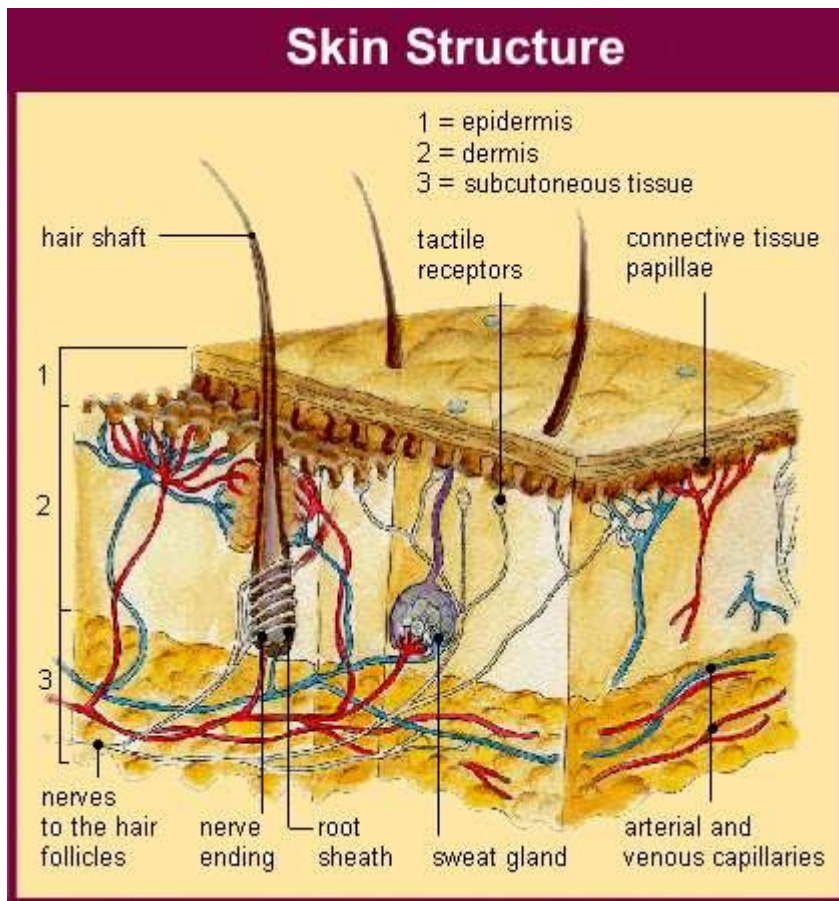
For the inquiring minds:

NUTRITION FOR THE CANINE:

The way to achieve the best results for a beautiful coat on your Afghan hound or any long, short, curly, or harsh coarse coated breed is to have your dog **first healthy, clean and well conditioned**. Many people will ask me "how do I get a **gorgeous coat** on my dog?". I tell them, it **starts with a healthy dog**. A sick, malnutrition or diseased dog cannot produce a gorgeous coat. You must start from the **inside and then work out**. A **healthy** dog, if genetically factored correctly, will produce a wonderful strong, shiny, and lustrous coat. It all starts by what kind of nutrition is fed to your dog. A healthy diet for the canine is to remember the canine is a carnivore (a flesh eating mammal) a hunter by nature. If he were hunting game (which he was intended to do) for food, he would kill the game and eat its stomach first for the pre-digested enzymes and the green that the game had eaten. That is where the dog gets his greens type vegetables. He would **not** eat carrots, peas, broccoli, rice (brown or white), wheat or corn. Then he would eat the flesh meat of the game for the protein, eight essential amino acids, many vitamins and minerals, such as vitamins B₂ and B₁₂, vitamin D, iron, zinc and fibre for the energy to hunt tomorrow. Meat is a natural food, free of damaging man-made hydrogenated fats and oils. He would eat the Internal organs, such as heart, liver, kidneys, etc.; loaded with vital nutrients. He would also eat some bones for calcium, phosphorus and the marrow (medullar cavity) inside middle of some of the bones filled with many attributes. Not all bone contain Medullar cavity. It is found in the long bones (i.e., femur or thigh bone.) Bone Marrow contains Melanoma-reactive CD₈+ effectors T-cells, and Memory T-Cells and blood cells; not to mention calcium, phosphorus and trace mineral, I recommend that a full grown Afghan be fed about 1/3-lb of meat per day. I know that many feel that an all raw meat diet is best, but it can be difficult to do with people's busy lives, and it can be very time consuming along with the freezer space to keep the raw meat. Total raw meat diets are very hard to balance for dogs to insure the proper proteins, grains, vitamins and mineral intake. The same as it is for a human to eat a total vegetarian diet. I feed dry dog food (about one cup per day) for the grains and fibre mainly with 1/3-lb of fresh raw meats. Dogs can digest raw meats with no problems. They don't have the ability to cook their meats in the wild. . When you cook meat, you kill the natural enzymes and destroy many vitamins, (i.e., beef, chicken, lamb, venison, etc.; not turkey it can be a little too rich.) I also add [SummerWinds Health-E-Coat food vitamin supplement](#) focusing on nutrients that help feed hair. [SummerWinds Health-E-Coat Supplement](#) is pure food and all natural. Along with [E3 Live AFA](#) blue/green algae and [E3 Live Enzymes](#) to help digestion and the body to absorb the nutrients it consumed. I feed this to each of my dogs every day. I do know that many people worry about feeding all natural dry dog foods and what all is in the kibble; how much protein is in each and if it has salts, taurine, eggs, or gluten, etc., etc., On and on.... I myself really don't worry that much about the kibble contents. I do want the kibble to be safe, of course, because I am **not feeding just kibble** and relying on the dry dog food to supply all the nutrients my dogs will need. I have been to the manufacturing plants that dog food kibble are produced in. They mix all ingredients in huge mixers as big as a large truck. Yes, they add a bag of vitamins A, B's, C, E, minerals, etc., and the vitamins and mineral that they state on the package, but who's to say that it is so well mixed and distributed that each bag contains exactly what it says on the label. I do not rely on all my dog's nutrients coming from the kibble. I prefer that the **protein not higher than the 20%, if I can get it**, because I am adding fresh meat to my dog's diet that's full of natural protein. I would also prefer that the kibble contain **no hydrogenated fats and oils** because when oils set for long periods of time (as they do in any bag of dry dog food) they become rancid and destroys vitamin B's. The oils in the fresh meat I am giving, along with what is in [SummerWinds Health-E-Coat Supplement](#), provides all the oil necessary that are natural with no hydrogenated fats That is why I add meat and our [SummerWinds Health-E-Coat Supplement](#) along with [E3 Live AFA & Enzymes](#). This has worked for me for many years now. My dogs are extremely healthy, full of energy, have longevity, are happy and grow gorgeous coats.

Hair and **Nails** are appendages of the skin; they are the last part of the body to be sent nutrients. Blood is what feeds hair and nails. The body first uses the nutrients to take care of the vital organs, extremities, tissues, and lastly the hair and nails are fed. So if the animal is deficient at all in any nutrients, the hair and nail will be the first to suffer.

SKIN PROBLEMS AND DISORDERS:



Whether you are trying to cultivate a show coat or just keep a pet in healthy condition, the internal system of the skin is the one of the most important tissue to maintain. It is the largest organ in the body. If your animal suffers from skin disorders not only will he be uncomfortable and sometimes even in pain, there is no way on earth you will be able to put a gorgeous show coat on your animal until you find the source and cure. So if your animals start to show signs of any skin problems, deal with it immediately! Do not procrastinate; these problems don't usually cure themselves. **SummerWinds** has two products that can aid in the relief of itching. [SummerWinds Stop-N-Itch Bath](#) and [SummerWinds Stop-N-Itch Lotion](#). Dry and itchy skin can come from many reasons, as I am sure you are aware of.

- 1) Allergies from foods, or things in their environment
- 2) Topical Products (i.e.) shampoo's conditions, styling agents, etc.
- 3) Cold and dry weather or hot and humid change in seasons.
- 4) Fleas or Ticks
- 5) Stress can cause mites to activate causing Mange or Cytological Problems

6) Disease or Yeast Infection

Below are a couple websites that will explain it more scientifically.

<http://www.thepetcenter.com/gen/itch.html>

<http://www.k9web.com/dog-faqs/medical/canine-allergies.html>

ANATOMY OF HAIR

The hair can be divided into two parts, the **root** and **shaft**. The root part of hair is in the skin (epidermis) of scalp. A pouch like structure called follicle surrounds the hair root. The base of hair root is in the shape of a bulb. Capillaries and nerve fibers indent this bulb. The cells in the center of bulb divide. The newly divided hair cells push the previous cells up. The cells, which move upwards, die slowly forming hard hair shaft.

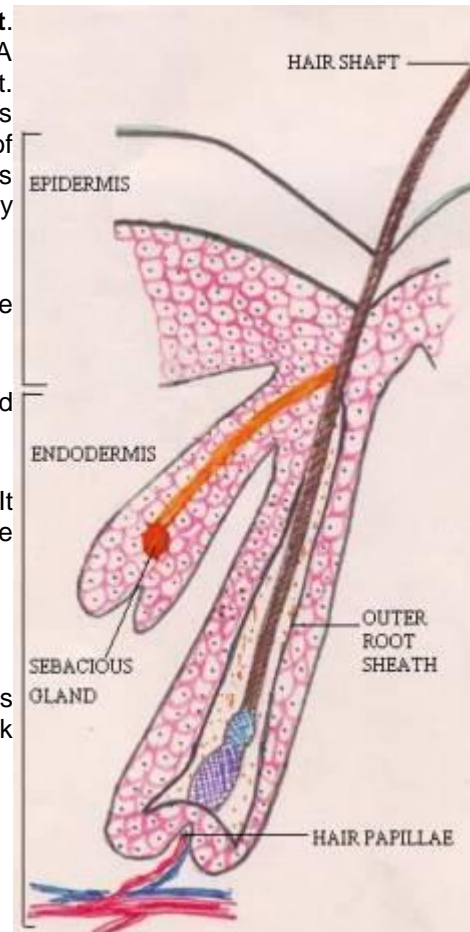
Hair is composed primarily of proteins (88%). These proteins are of a hard fibrous type known as keratin.

The **hair shaft** has **three layers** the **cuticle**, **medulla** and **cortex**.

Cuticle is the outer layers and protects the inner layers. It is transparent. Healthy cuticle gives a shiny appearance for hair and unhealthy cuticle gives lifeless look

Medulla is the innermost layer composed of large cells.

Cortex is the layer between cuticle and medulla. This contains pigment and keratin. Cortex determines the bulk and strength of hair.



The hair follicle contains oil-secreting glands, which make the hair shiny. Stress and illness and lack of proper nutrients diminish secretion of oil and pigments causing graying of hair.

The hair is considered as a tissue which uses the same nutrients of bone, nails and which is formed as bi-product of bone tissue.

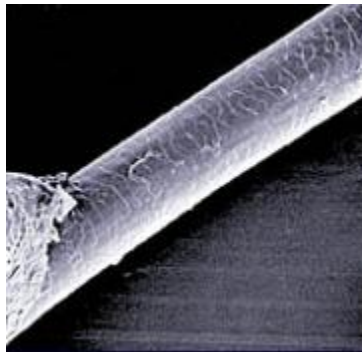
Normal hair growth cycle:

Each hair grows approximately at the rate of 1 centimeter per month. This growth continues for 2-6 years. When the hair attains full growth it resets for 2-3 months and is later shed.

A new hair starts growing in its place. Thus at any given point of time 10 percent of the total hair on our scalp is in a resting phase and 90 percent of the hair is in growth phase.

As apart of this hair growth cycle it is normal for every warm blooded animal to experience a little hair fall every day. Any condition in which the hair fall is more than normal is termed as hair loss. Hair loss can affect anybody irrespective of age and gender.

Hair and different textures



Fine hair is close to the resolution of the human eye, about as fine as we can see. Hair thickness varies from person to person, animal to animal, day to day, year to year.

It's anywhere between 1/1500 to 1/450 inches (17 to 181 microns). Hair color is the biggest factor. **Flaxen hair** is the **finest** (1/1500 to 1/500 inches, 17 to 51 microns) and **black hair** the **coarsest** (1/450 to 1/140 inches, 56 to 181 microns).

Warming weather can thicken hair

Hair shape (round or oval cross-section) and texture (curly or straight) is influenced heavily by genes. However, nutritional status and intentional alteration (heat curling, "perms") can affect the physical appearance of hair.

Hair Pigment

Hair color is mostly the result of pigments -- chemical compounds that reflect certain wavelengths of visible light. There is two main pigments found in human hair: **Eumelanin** has an oval or elliptical shape, which **gives color to brown or black hair** and is dark pigment. The higher the concentration of Eumelanin the darker the hair.

Pheomelanin is what produces the **color in blonde or red hair**. The **higher the concentration of phaeomelanin, the lighter the hair**. Unlike eumelanin, phaeomelanin is smaller, partly oval and has a rod shape. **White hair contains no melanin at all** and **gray hair contains only a few melanin granules**.

Although some scientists believe that the derivation of pigment is probably derived from colo-forming sumpstances in the blood. The color of the hair, light or dark, depends upon the color and amount of the grains of pigment it contains.

Natural hair color may also be influenced by the optical effects of light rays by melanin, either as they are absorbed or reflected and bouncing off the surfaces of the different hair layers. The size, amount and distribution of melanin determine the ultimate hair color. Great number of large melanin Molecules distributed throughout the cortex to create different colors. The various combinations in the size, amount and distribution of melanin create all natural hair color. Which contributes to the many different types of texture in hair and coats.

What is the difference between fur and hair?

The term "fur" refers to the body hair of non-human mammals also known as the pelage (like the term, plumage in birds). The main difference between hair and fur is where it grows, not what it's made of. Human's, have long hair on their heads and short hair on their arms, while a deer has short hair all over.

Also, unlike hair, fur includes a layer of finer, shorter denser hairs, the under fur, through which longer, coarser, more thinly distributed guard hairs extend.

So fur is hair, but it is used to describe the dense uniform hair covering on animals.

THE DIFFERENT TYPE OF COATS IN DOGS:

There are over 400 breeds of dogs. Between them, there are literally dozens of coat types.

Coat Length

Long, medium and short. For example, both Old English sheep dogs and Afghans have long coats; however, the two breeds could not have grooming requirements that are more different. Even short-coated breeds can have different grooming requirements. The Labrador retriever and Miniature Pinscher are both shorthaired, but the first has a dense and oily coat, while the second coat is hard and close lying to the skin. Some dogs have coats between these two extremes. The Papillon, with its wavy coat and attractive frills on its ears, tail, and ruff, has a medium-length coat.

Hair Type

There are three types of hair types: straight, wire, and curly. Straight coats are perhaps the most familiar. The short-coated Whippet and the long-coated Rough Collie both have straight outer "guard hair" for their coats. Most of the Terrier's breeds have "wire" coats. The outer guard hairs that are straight in other breeds are harsh and kinked. Some sporting breeds to retrieve game from the water have curly oily coats. They can be soft or harsh, depending on the breed.

Coat Density

Coats are either single or double in density. Double coats consist of outer guard hairs, with an inner layer of shorter, finer coat called undercoat. This undercoat can be fine or downy, thick or thin. Dogs with single coats have the outer guard hairs, but lack the inner layer of undercoat. Most breeds with single coats also have long hair. Many single-coated dogs, like the Maltese, were developed to be decorative, rather than functional. Dogs from warm climates, like the Afghan hound also have single coats.

Grooming for Coat Type

Different coat types will have different grooming requirements briefly described below.

Short Coats: short straight coats are of course the easiest to care for, requiring occasional grooming with a slicker brush or a soft brush. However, those short-coated breeds with a dense undercoat will also require that undercoat to be groomed out on occasion. Using a brush known as a shedding rake like [Untangle Shedding Rake](#) to rid the dog from dead hair in the undercoat will prevent mats from forming. If mats form underneath the guard hairs and remain for any length of time, sores and hair loss, known as "hot spots" can occur. Some dogs, such as Alaskan Malamutes and German Shepherds, have such thick undercoats that they require frequent, if not daily, grooming to prevent these mats from forming in sensitive areas. Removing this dead undercoat will also cut down on the dog shedding his coat all over your house.

Wire Coats: wire-coated dogs have unique grooming needs. Each different breed of Terriers will have a little different trim on the head and body, but most will have a process called "stripping" which is done by hand or the aid of a stripping knife a couple times a year. Dead guard hairs are plucked for the dog's coat.

Their hairs are loose and about to drop out so removing them does not cause the dog pain. This allows fresh new coat to grow in, along with preventing a lot of excess shedding.

Long Coats; long coats require a lot of attention. Their coats must be groomed several times a week, if not daily, to ensure that they remain free of tangles and mats. Bathing once a week and thoroughly brushing and combing through the dogs coat will help to keep the matting under control. Long coated dogs with double coats require the same attention as double-coated shorthaired dogs.

Single-coated long coated dogs have special grooming needs. Dogs with these kinds of coats, such as Afghan hounds and Maltese, should never be groomed when their coats are dry. Spray the coat first with water or conditioner such as [SummerWinds Fine L Shine Cream Rinse](#) or [SummerWinds Stat-A-Way Spray](#) before brushing or combing to prevent the coat from breakage. Matting in Single-coated breeds is a big problem and in order to keep the coats mat free they must be monitored frequently to prevent this from happening.

Unique Coats

Corded Coats; are breeds that have curly hair and are allowed to mat forming “cords”, similar to dreadlocks. The "cords" that form this kind of coat are specialized mats. They create a weather-resistant shield in herding and some hunting breeds. Dogs with corded coats require baths to keep their coats clean and order free. Corded coats take hours to dry following each bath.

Hairless Breeds; have no coats. The American Hairless terrier and the Chinese Crested dogs are examples of hairless dogs. Their skin must be maintained, just as other dogs' coats are groomed. They need regular baths and moisturizer and sunscreen must be applied for their skin.

GENERAL PRODUCT FACTS:

Natural or Organic:

In hair care products there are no such thing as **all natural** products. Ingredients derived from natural sources lose their natural composition when they are processed to make cosmetic products. Cleaning

ingredient in shampoos and conditioning agents in conditioners are just a few. They may start from plant derivatives, but are altered drastically to be a shampoo or conditioner. Adding natural or organic products to the shampoo or conditioner are done for performance enhancement.

SHAMPOO:

The purpose of a shampoo is to clean the hair. It is important that shampoo does not clean too well, or all of the protective oils in the hair would be stripped out.

Detergents:

The most common ingredient in shampoos is detergent, which is used in other products, a class of surfactants known as straight-chain alkyl benzene sulfonates. An example is Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate, or its sodium relative, or the slightly larger related molecule ammonium lauryl ether sulfate, sometimes abbreviated as ammonium laureth sulfate.

These detergents work best in water that has little calcium and magnesium, as these elements bind to the detergent and make an insoluble scum. So tetrasodium EDTA is used to sequester the calcium and magnesium from the detergent, while keeping them soluble so they rinse away without scum.

Cocamide DEA (or MEA or TEA) is used as a foaming agent to make the lather. The other surfactants will generate a certain amount of suds, but this foaming agent is added to get the amount just right. Besides its foam stabilizing effects, it is also a viscosity booster (it's thick).

The detergent cocamidopropyl betaine is added for several of its special properties. It is milder on the skin than the benzene sulfonates, so adding it to the mix reduces the amount of the harsher detergents needed. It is thicker than the other ingredients, so it can be added to make the mix have the right viscosity. It has anti-static properties so the hair doesn't generate an electric charge and jump to the plastic combs and brushes used when drying the hair. It is a humectant, attracting moisture from the air, thus keeping hair from drying out. Lastly, it has antibiotic properties that can prevent spoiling of the shampoo.

Special effects:

Sodium chloride (table salt) is used to thicken the mixture if the main surfactants are sodium lauryl sulfates. If the surfactants are ammonium based, then ammonium chloride is used. Salt can make the shampoo harsh, drying, sting the eyes, and irritating to the skin leaving it itchy. In [SummerWinds Shine-Onnn](#), [SummerWinds Take-A-Hike](#) and [SummerWinds Stop-N-Itch Bath](#) there is no Sodium Chloride added.

Glycerin is added as a humectant (draws moisture from the air), as is propylene glycol, which is also a preservative.

All **SummerWinds shampoo's** have Amino acids added that act as conditioners.

Preservatives

Two widely used preservatives, DMDM hydantoin and imidasolidinyl urea are found in many shampoos, to prevent fungal and bacterial spoilage. They release formaldehyde to kill germs.

Sodium benzoate and 2-bromo-2nitropropane-1, 3-diol are other preservative's used in shampoos. It kills bacteria, fungi, and yeasts, and works well in acidic mixtures.

PH balance

The surface of a strand of hair is covered with overlapping sheets, somewhat like the scales on a fish, or the shingles on a house. This surface is called the cuticle.

Alkaline solutions raise these scales so they stand up. This makes the hair rougher, makes it look dull, and makes the hair shafts stick together due to the rough texture.

All SummerWinds Shampoos are made slightly acidic to keep the cuticle smooth and lying flat on the hair shaft.

As shampoo mixes with the water in the bath, or mixes with dirt on the hair, it can become less acidic as the acids mix with alkaline water or dirt. A compound that releases more acidifying ions when the acidity gets low, or absorbs acid when the acidity gets too high, is called a buffer.

A typical buffering agent used in shampoo is sodium citrate. Since the goal is to keep the shampoo slightly acid, the term "pH balanced" is actually a misnomer. The balance should be tipped slightly to the acidic side. Human pH is 5.5. A dog's pH is 6.5 **all** of our **SummerWinds Shampoo's** are 6.5 pH based. Many pet shampoos on the market are formulated for the human pH of 5.5, with a pet label applied to them.

CLARIFYING SHAMPOO

Clarifying shampoo is any of a variety of shampoo products that are formulated to **deep clean** the hair by **removing product buildup from the hair shafts**. Styling products, such as hair spray, conditioners, and even daily shampoos can cause buildup on the hair overtime. This buildup can add weight to the hair, making it flat and lifeless, as well as prevent the reflection of light, which makes the hair appear dull and dingy. Periodic use of a clarifying shampoo will help remove the buildup. Don't confuse the words buildup with residue. Residue can come from both the conditioning ingredient in shampoos and hair conditioners that will protect the hair shaft. Residue can be a positive and essential end result for the shiny, healthy finished look. Buildup occurs from the accumulation of residue, both from topical styling products as well as some internal medications.

Most clarifying shampoo products contain acetic acid. A chemical compound, though mild as far as acid goes, is known for its de-scaling abilities. As necessary as it is to keep the hair shaft clear of buildup it can be very difficult to find a clarifying shampoo that won't cause more harm than benefit. Many clarifying shampoos are not known for their conditioning abilities. With an improper formulation and harsh stripping agents in the ingredients some clarifying shampoos are great for aiding in the removal of unwanted buildup of oil, styling products, and other grime, but also remove the natural oils in hair and skin leaving the hair dull and dry out.

We at **SummerWinds** have worked long and hard on formulating our **(NEW) [SummerWinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#)**. Finally arriving with a perfect answer to how to remove buildup with a mild formula is our **[SummerWinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#)**. **[SummerWinds Remove-A-Way Clarifying Shampoo](#)** is effective in removing product buildup or any accumulation buildup on the hair shaft. It is formulated not to deep cleanse so thoroughly as to remove any natural oils and moisture in the hair and skin or residue from conditioning agents in shampoos and conditioners that we want to remain on the hair shaft. Along with maintaining the same 6.5 pH balance that is mild and gentle as all the other shampoos in our **SummerWinds** line.

CONDITIONER

Conditioners are compounds added to keep the hair cuticle smooth and slippery. Silicone oils such as dimethicone and cyclomethicone are used to make the hair shiny and slippery. Humectants (moisturizers) like panthenol help keep the cuticle moist so that the scales do not stand up.

Long chain fatty alcohols like cetyl alcohol, oleyl alcohol and stearyl alcohol lubricate the hair. One end of the molecule binds to the hair, leaving the slippery fatty end on the outside to rub against other strands of hair, or a comb.

Quaternary ammonium compounds are cationic surfactants that bind well to anionic surfaces like the protein in hair. The ammonium end sticks to the hair, leaving the long fatty end of the molecule to act as a lubricant. They are slightly conductive so they reduce the buildup of static electricity.

The "quats", as they are called, include compounds like stearylalkonium chloride, disteardimonium chloride, quaternium-5 or quaternium-18; polyquaternium-10 and they are all similar in form and function to

cetrimonium chloride. These compounds help to soften and reduce anti-static. They are also used to thicken the shampoo.

The emollient isopropyl palmitate is used as a skin softener, moisturizer, and as an anti-static agent.

The term "hair conditioner" is vague. Hair conditioners fall into different groups according to what you want to accomplish with the hair. Thin hair need a specific kind of "conditioner", thick, dry hair need another...

Conditioners fall into six major categories:

Moisturizers

Moisturizers are concentrated with humectants. Humectants are compounds that attract and hold moisture into the hair. They may not necessarily contain botanicals or protein.

Re-constructors

Normally contain protein. Hydrolyzed human hair keratin protein is the best source, because it contains all 19 amino acids found in the hair. Human hair keratin protein has a low molecular weight. This enables it to penetrate the hair shaft (the cortex).

Acidifiers -

The key word here is "acid". Yes, it is good to put acid on your hair. Hair and skin are acid and don't like to be in an alkaline condition. When a product carries a pH of 2.5 to 3.5 it is normally termed an acidifier. This pH will close (compact) the cuticle layer of the hair. The result is shiny, bouncy hair. This pH range will adjust the beta bonds to alpha bonds (hydrogen bonds). Acidifiers do not weigh down the hair. They do create shine, and add elasticity. This category is great for fine textured hair.

De-tanglers

Most detangles are acidifiers, (see above). Most have low pH's 2.5 to 3.5. They close the cuticle of the hair. Some "shield" the hair shaft with polymers (polymers are strings of "like" molecules- a chain). Some detangles are instant, some take 1-5 minutes to work.

Thermal Protectors

Thermal protectors safeguard the hair shaft against extreme heat. Using thermal protectors are one of the best things you can do to protect hair when blow-drying. They normally use heat-absorbing polymers that distribute the heat, so your hair does not get heat damage (a major cause of hair damage)

Glossers/Polishers

For the most part glossers are cosmetic. Most Glossers contain dimethicone or cyclomethicone (very light oils derived from silicone). Used in small amounts they reflect light. Also, they are one of the best products to control the "frizzles."

Oils (E.F.A.)

When hair is dry (esp. if the hair has been treated with chemicals such as hair color-perm-relaxer) you need to add oil to the hair. The skin and scalp produces natural oil called sebum. E.F.A. are the closest thing to natural sebum (sebum contain E.F.A.). E.F.A. can take very dry and porous hair and transform it into soft pliable hair. E.F.A. acts as a barrier on the skin to help prevent the loss of moisture and thereby moisturize skin. In scientific studies it is one of the most effective occlusive moisturizing ingredients.

[SummerWinds Protect A Coat Oil Conditioner](#) is both a Moisturizer, Re-constructors and contains Essential Fatty Acid Oils.

[SummerWinds Fine L Shine Cream Rinse Conditioner](#) is both a Moisturizer and Acidifier.

THE BIG OIL DEBATE:

There are many pros and cons about using oils. I am sure that you've heard some of them. And in part I couldn't agree more. There are as many different types of oils as there are opinions. There **is heavy petroleum crude oil, animal fat oils, vegetable oils, flower oils, seed oils to light refined oils (EFA)** and on and on. **All oils are not equal.**

For example, **LANOLIN** is animal fat oil that was very popular buzz/ word in the human hair cosmetic world a while back. **LANOLIN** is a fatty substance from sheep, by-products of the meat packing industry. But it was quickly learned that it caused more problems than benefits. It is very heavy and is fast to rancid not to mention toxins, including synthetic hormones used to bulk up animals, tend to accumulate in fat tissue. Animal fats tend to clog sebaceous pores more than vegetable oils, not to mention very difficult to remove, by detergents or strong clarifying shampoos.

LANOLIN is a very poor choice, for human care products let alone for animals with very fine coats. If the **LANOLIN** is left in the coat for longer than 3 to 4 days it begins to dry out, and can cause itching and matting and making more work for yourself.

It doesn't do you any good to put your dog down in heavy oil that the only way to remove them from the skin and coat on show day's is to use a detergent. Not only does the detergent remove the **LANOLIN** or **HEAVY WEIGHT OILS**, it removes the natural oils and moisture from the animal's hair and skin.

What we use in [SummerWinds Protect A Coat Oil Conditioner](#) is **light refined oils (E.F.A.)** and **E.F.A. (Essential Fatty Acid)**, that will not only protect the hair shaft but are the closest thing to natural sebum (sebum contains **E.F.A.**) **E.F.A** will take very dry and porous hair and transform it into soft pliable hair. **E.F.A.** acts as a barrier on the skin to help prevent the loss of moisture and thereby moisturize skin. In scientific studies it is one of the most effective occlusive moisturizing ingredients and is easily removed with one (1) 6.5 pH balance [SummerWinds Shine-Onnn Shampoo](#). [SummerWinds Protect A Coat Oil Conditioner](#) is a two (2) in one combo conditioner. The creamy lotion part of [Protect A Coat](#) is a **moisturizing and re-structor conditioner**, with **refined oil (E.F.A.) added.**

SHAMPOO / CONDITIONER all in one:

Shampoos and Conditioners as you can see from above, **do not have the same chemistry** and are very different from each other. **Shampoos are of alkaline base. Conditioners are acid based. Alkaline and Acid are like oil and water and don't complement each other.** Conditioners are classified as cationic surfactants and Shampoos are classified as anionic surfactants.

Shampoos are designed to cleanse the hair and remove soil and oil build up. They are not meant to adhere to the hair shaft like conditioners. They are meant to cleanse and be rinsed out while conditioners have properties to coat and protect the hair. In other words they will cancel out each other.

The reason for designing the two in one combo is to save time and money by two products in one. **Nice idea if it would work, but it doesn't.** It is much better to cleanse and condition individual allowing each product to provide ultimate results and to achieve their full potential.

ANT-STATIC SPRAY

Electrostatic events occur whenever positive and negative electric charges are held apart from each other. When you comb or brush hair on a dry day, you will find that the comb /brush can pick up bits of dust, that is a static electric occurrence, it is an example of static electricity. Maybe reword the above

But there is **no electricity in the hair or in the comb.** Instead, **the rising of the hair is the static electricity.** The **crackling sounds are the static electricity.** Static electricity is most often caused by a lack of moisture in the atmosphere.

This may or may not be of much interest to you, but when you are trying to show a dog who's hair is suppose to drape and hang down and instead it is sticking out like you struck his toe in a light socket, I am sure that the Scientifics of static electricity will get your attention! Next thing will want is to find a product that will control this phenomenon of static electricity. [SummerWinds Stat A Way Spray](#) will help combat static in two ways. [SummerWinds Stat A Way Spray](#) will put small minute amount oil into the coat, which adds weight, and helps hold in necessary moisture, while deodorizing the coat at the same time. [SummerWinds Stat A Way Spray](#) also contains de-tangle properties that protect the hair shaft for ease of grooming and add shine.

CAUTION!!!

Products And Things That Damage Coats The Most...

1. Shampoo is one of the most important selections you will make in choosing the right grooming products. **Continue shampooing without restoring the pH balance with a cream rinse acidifier**, such as [SummerWinds Fine-L-Shine Cream Rinse](#), will cause the cuticle layer on the shaft of the hair to open resulting in dry, dull, brittle hair and breakage will occur because the chemical makeup of the shampoo itself is made with an alkaline base. I will say it again, **hair and skin are acid and do not like to be in an alkaline condition**. Especially with harsh shampoos formulated for human's pH instead of dog's pH. For this reason, SummerWinds spent countless hours of extensive research development of all of our **SummerWinds** shampoo formulas.
2. Blow Drying hair with extreme heat, and not protecting the hair first with a thermal protector.
3. Chemically treated hair, such as tinting, perming, and straightening without using reconstructive conditioner.
4. Sun, UV rays without using sunscreen (i.e., [SummerWinds Protect A Coat Oil Conditioner](#) with sunscreen.)
5. Chlorine, some dogs will swim daily in swimming pools. Using [SummerWinds Protect-A-Coat Oil Conditioner](#) will protect the hair from the harsh chlorine results.
6. Hair sprays, bodifiers, texturizers, moose products that give hair body.
Grooming tools (i.e., brushes that are not used correctly.)