



Grooming The Miniature Schnauzer Pet

Equipment List:

1. Oster clippers with a #10 and #40 blade
2. Slicker brush
3. Greyhound or Resco comb 7 1/2 inch
4. Scissors straight blades 7 1/2 to 8 1/2 inches in length
5. Toe nail clippers and styptic powder
6. Hemostats
7. Hair dryer
8. Mild shampoo
9. Hair conditioner (most any of the instant hair conditioners for people work well)
10. Grooming table, arm and noose (or any sturdy table with non-slip surface and a way to secure dogs head, like an eyebolt and leash.
11. Grooming apron or smock
12. Large bath towels

Miniature Schnauzers should have a complete grooming every 6 to 8 weeks. Do not bath more than once a week and give a very thorough brushing once or twice a week. Teeth should be brushed daily. The dog should be clean dry and mat free before you begin. Mats should be brushed out before bathing, bathing and drying matted hair will tighten mats and make them harder to brush out.

Begin with the dogs head using a #10 blade on your Oster clipper. Shave the hair off on the top of the dogs head, cheeks and under side of neck (see diagram) taking care to leave the eyebrows. Clip only to the outside corner of the eyes, do not clip or scissor under the eyes. A good rule of thumb is to clipper to the three moles that are around the beard of the dog (one on each side of the cheek and one under throat area). Use scissors to trim out the hair between the eyes and inside corner of the eyes so that the eyebrow is distinct from the beard. Trim the eyebrows by first removing the eyelashes then combing the eyebrow down and to the outside of the head-start by making a cut with your scissors from the back side of the eyebrow-by laying your scissors along the skull of the dog-pointing the point of the scissors at the nose. Move around to the front of the head, comb the eyebrows down and out again and finish the trim by pointing the scissors at the outside corner of the eye. This will give the eyebrows a moderate curve and expose a little of the eye. Do not shave down the top of the dogs muzzle, part the hair down the middle and standing in front of the dog comb the beard forward. With your scissors held parallel to the beard trim the hair at the outside corners of the eyes until the line of the beard is a continuation of the skull.

Use the #40 blade on the ears. Clipper inside and outside of ears. Never run the blade down the edge of ear, trim this hair with scissors. Pluck the long hair out of ear canals using hemostats.

The body is next (see Diagram) using the #10 blade. The #10 blade on the clipper can be used with the direction of hair growth or can go opposite the hair growth for a closer shave.

Scissoring the front legs (see diagram). The front legs are barber polled, combing the hair out from the leg in all directions and scissoring downward with the scissors held in a vertical position and they should be parallel, not perpendicular to the leg as this will leave scissor marks.

Scissoring the back legs you will follow the natural contour of the leg. The length of the hair on the back legs should match the length on the front legs. When viewing the dog from the rear the trim on the insides of the legs should resemble an A frame.

The paws on all four legs are rounded with the scissors. Brush the hair on the paws down and out while the dog is standing and scissor off the long hairs to shape it. Do not scissor to close making a foot that is too small and out of proportion, a pointed foot is incorrect also. Next pick up the foot and scissor out the hair between the toes and pad. Last cut the toe nails. If done weekly just taking the tip of the nail off will work the quick (blood vessel) back so you can have nice short nails.

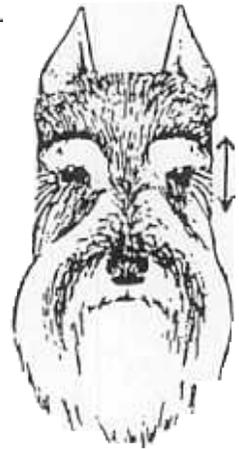
The underbody or underline of dog should have some shape also. Start by clipping a horseshoe on the abdomen between the nipples, this will leave a good fringe on either side which will be easier to get even. The underline of the dog should be the shortest at the navel and get longer toward the elbow following the chest of the dog. The hair in the loin area is trimmed so that it blends from the front of the rear leg (stifle) into the shorter navel area. Do not make a straight cut front to back or worse shave the loin area.

Grooming is something you learn and develop with practice, practice, practice. So don't get discouraged, just pick up those scissors and get to work.

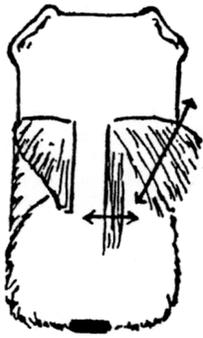
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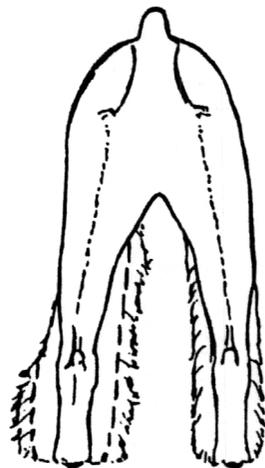
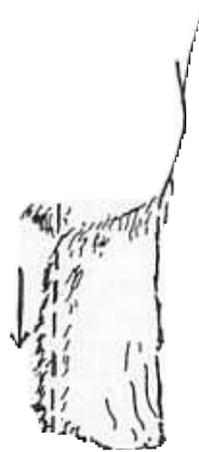
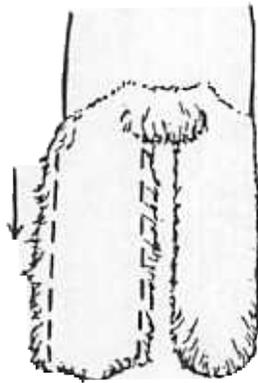
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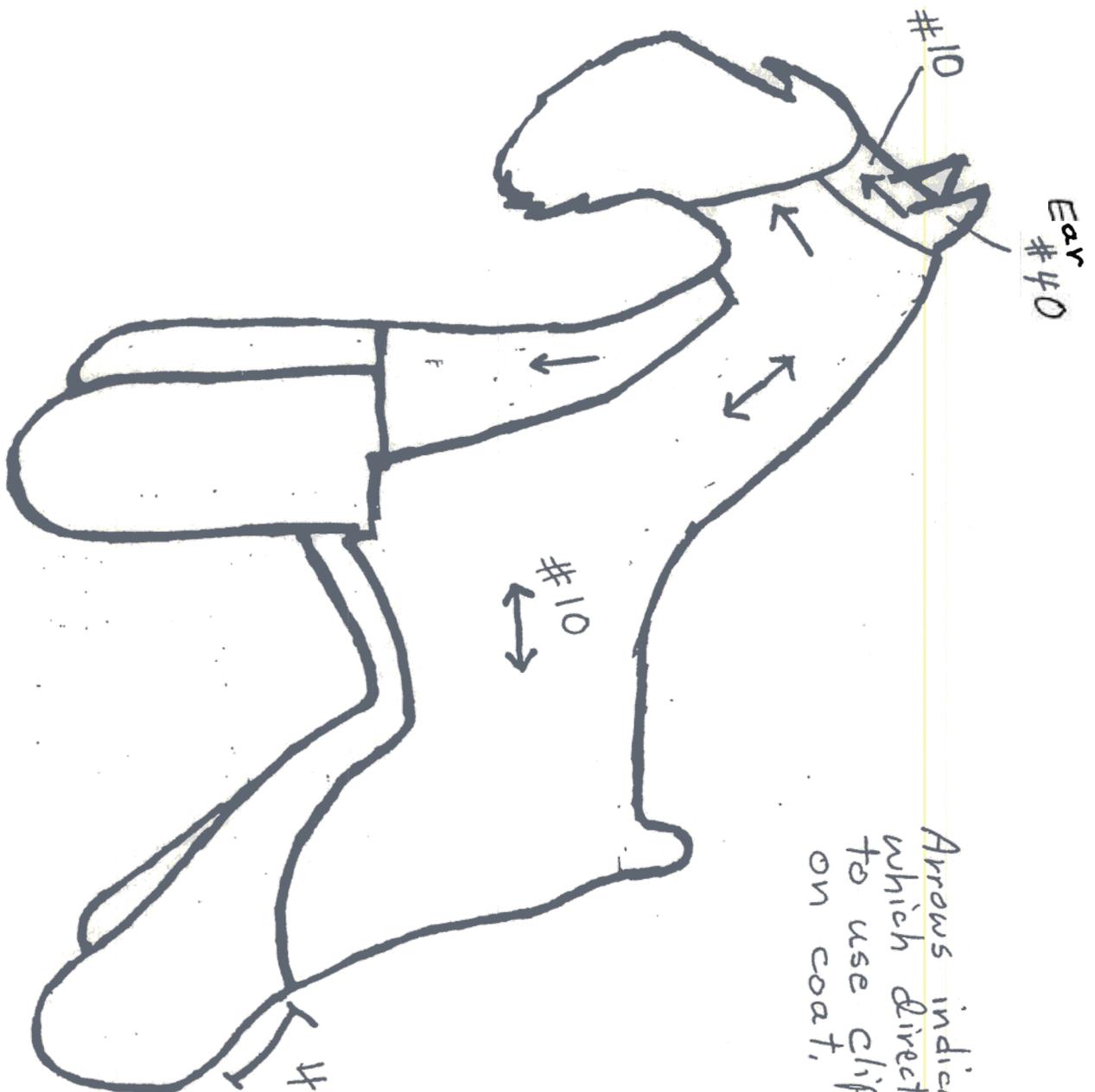


trimming eyebrows



Original Leg





Arrows indicate which direction to use clippers on coat.

4 fingers from hock to wrist Clipping