

Trimming a Golden Retriever

You will need:



Slicker Brush



Straight Edged Scissors



Comb



**Double Sided Thinning
Scissors**



or



Nail Clippers

Always remember to trim a little at a time, 2 cuts with the thinning scissors, comb & look Cut with an upwards movement placing the scissors under the top layer of coat, then comb down to see the effect. KEEP COMBING THROUGHOUT TO CHECK WHAT YOU ARE DOING.

Trim your dog over several days as he will get very bored, this is especially important if he has never been trimmed before.

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Where you begin.....

is up to you. You want to neaten the dog's profile, that's all and remember to be very careful with darker Golden Retrievers as they have a paler undercoat, which will show through unless you are very careful.

EARS NECK & SHOULDERS

Trim around the outside of the ears with straight scissors, being careful of the double flap at the top. The fluffy hairs sticking out on top & back of the ear can be trimmed with the thinning scissors with small upward cuts & carefully combing all the time. Underneath, the hair can be trimmed to allow the ear to breathe but please **BE VERY CAREFUL !**

The Forechest is trimmed all over with thinning scissors **JUST TO LOOK TIDY**. Do not trim too much off, a little at a time is all that you need to do Always - Two upward cuts then comb & look. Remember the feathering on a Golden is one of his most attractive features.

TAIL

The shape you are aiming for is that of a large kitchen knife. Again remember not to trim severely, the tail must always be in balance with the rest of the dog.

You can trim with the dog lying on his side, or standing up, whichever suits you better. Always brush the hair thoroughly away from the tail to make it smooth. Try not to lean on it because the dog will try to swish his tail away from you which makes it very difficult ! Cover the tip of the tail with your finger & thumb so the end is protected, it will bleed a lot if you catch it with the scissors, then trim so the outline is shorter at the tip, widening to the dog's body, so the vertical length is in proportion with your dog's outline. Comb it out, shake & comb again to check the result. Keep shaking, combing & carefully trimming until all the hair is tidy. As a guide, the depth is around 4" when finished, but do look at your own dog so the tail is balanced with the body proportions. The end should now look neat & rounded

TROUSERS

If your dog has abundant, fluffy, long 'Trousers' on his back legs, you can neaten the bottom of them with thinning scissors so they don't trail onto his hocks too much, but again remember this feathering is part of Golden appeal & only do it to tidy & balance the profile if you need to

NAILS, PAWS & PASTERNS

Look closely at your dog's nails. If they are pale, you will see a pink middle, which is the living centre of the nail with all the nerve endings, shine a torch from the back & you can see a little clearer. This is the part which will bleed severely & be extremely painful if you accidentally cut it, so **BE VERY CAREFUL**. Cut up to just below the pink middle section, taking a tiny shaving off each time, it is much better to do a little bit each week than to risk hurt your dog. If you are at all nervous, **PLEASE ASK SOMEONE EXPERIENCED TO HELP YOU** & if your dog has black nails be very cautious & again ask an experienced groomer/Golden owner to help you until you are confident on your own.

Trim the hair around the pads with straight scissors & underneath the foot so the dog does not have 'slippers' of fluff underneath his toes. Pull the long hairs up between his toes & trim with thinning scissors to achieve a clean look to the paw. You are aiming to accentuate the Golden's cat-like feet, so bear that in mind when trimming.

The pasterns (from the back of the paw to the stopper pad on the dogs leg) can be neatened with thinning scissors or carefully with straight scissors, again keeping everything in proportion with your dog, If he is finer boned, don't trim too closely so he looks more substantial.

**FINALLY BRUSH YOUR DOG THOROUGHLY, STAND BACK & ADMIRE HIM
& GIVE HIM A BIG HUG!**