

Typical Dog Grooming Patterns @ The Pet Spa

There are actually very few patterns in the dog-grooming world. Every cut is either one of these patterns, or a variation of them. Groomers dislike hearing “I want a puppy cut” and other such vague requests since there is no such thing as a “puppy” cut. Terms like this mean so many different things to different people that it can be frustrating for a groomer to figure out exactly what the pet parent wants for their dog. Likewise, it can be just as frustrating as a pet parent to try and get across what kind of cut they want. Of course, we want to make all of our pets and pet parents happy so we’ve put together this little guide to help explain some of the typical cuts.

- **Schnauzer Cut** – This pattern can be put on any dog, really. I love to explore and be creative with schnauzer patterns because of their sharp angles and eye-catching lines. Schnauzers, of course look great with their typical breed cut, but Yorkies and other breeds look super cute with it too. The pattern is set with a #10 or #7 blade on the back, neck, and top of the head. The legs, skirt, are left long and full. The eyebrows are sharply angled, ears and cheeks shaved.
- **Cocker Cut** – This is another pattern that can be put on most dogs and look great. It’s very similar to the Schnauzer cut, but without the sharp angles. The straight lined pattern is also set with a #10 or #7 blade and the legs and skirt are left full. The face is shaved and some pet parents like to leave the head furry, while others prefer it to be shaved along with the top 1/3 of the ear.
- **Poodle Cut(s)** – There are many different poodle cuts to choose from. We recommend an in person consultation when selecting one of these cuts so that one of our skilled groomers can assess your dog’s coat and determine which is the best for that particular dog. Typically poodles have shaved feet and faces. They have rounded topknots and fluffy hair. Only dogs with fluffy hair will be able to have one of these cuts.
- **Lamb Cut** – The lamb cut is great on fluffy dogs like poodles, bichons, and even Shih-Tzu and Schnauzers. The body is cut at the pet parent’s desired length while the legs are left fluffy, but are scissored to be neat and blended into the body.
- **Lion Cut** – The lion cut really only looks good on dogs that have very full, straight hair like Pomeranians, Chows, and Collie type dogs. The rear end of the body is shaved close to the skin while the top part is left long to attain that lion look. The lion cut can be left natural looking with wispy-fly-away hairs or scissored to be neater and blended in appearance.
- **All Over cut** – The dog is cut to one length all over its entire body (not including the head, ears, or tail). This can be done at any length depending on the coat type and if the dog is tangled or not.

Again, all of these cuts can be varied to suit each of our client's individual needs. If you prefer a schnauzer cut with short legs and skirt for easier maintenance, for example, we can do that. We encourage you to think outside the box and challenge us with more unique cuts. The company dog, Louie was a perfect candidate for a mix of a lion cut and a lamb cut. He looks amazing that way! As always, feel free to bring in pictures or ideas for us to use as a template or a way to communicate your likes and dislikes with our team of Houston dog grooming professionals.

Dog Grooming Terminology

There have been many occasions where a member of our grooming team has blurted out some kind of dog grooming terminology to a pet parent only to have a blank, confused look in response. To help clear up any other confusion, here is a list of a few of the most common terms in our dog grooming language:

Dog Grooming – Head Terminology

- **Clean Face** – Typically done on poodles, this just means we are to shave the face clean and very close to the skin.
- **Topknot** – A topknot refers to the top of a dog's head. It should be round and blended into the body seamlessly. A topknot can be a fluffy poodle head or a ponytail or pigtailed at the top of the head on other dogs.
- **Teddy Bear Head** – This is a rounded face and head typically given to shih-tsus and other small dogs.
- **Bichon Head** – A bichon head is almost always exclusively done on the bichon frise because it requires full, fluffy hair to scissor properly. This is a rounded or sometimes triangular (with the corners rounded off) head. The ears are trimmed short and blended into the rest of the head so that they don't stand out away from the rest of the head.
- **Tipped ears** – Some breed cuts have what we call tipped ears. This just means the top 1/3rd of the ear is shaved leaving sharply pointed ears. Yorkies and Westies usually have tipped ears.
- **Leave Lashes** – Some pet parents ask us to leave the eyelashes long on their dogs. I would just like to explain that any dog groomer that guarantees they will leave the eyelashes long is a very foolish one. Dogs are living, breathing, moving things that can twitch, jerk, sneeze, or get startled. When we have scissors around those eyelashes to set, for example a schnauzers eyebrows or rounding a teddy bear head, it can be difficult to avoid cutting the eyelashes. We will always do our best to keep those lovely lashes long, but it's never a guarantee.

Dog Grooming – Feet Terminology

- **Clean Feet** – Just like the above-mentioned clean face, clean feet are completely shaved exposing the nails and the entire foot up to the ankle area. Clean feet are usually done on poodles.

- **Round Feet** – Round feet are fluffy feet that we scissor neatly without exposing the nails.
- **Tight Feet** – Tight feet are kind of in between clean feet and rounded feet. They expose the nails, keep the feet free from matting, but are not shaved close to the skin.

Dog Grooming – Body Terminology

- **Pom Pom** – Pom poms are typically done on poodles or other fluffy coated dogs. They are usually cut above clean feet and on the end of the tail. Only curly or thick-coated dogs have hair that can be scissored into round pom poms.
- **Landing Strip** – a strip shaved from the anus down to the private area for those dogs that are extremely hairy around the backend like Pomeranians and Chows. If your dog has problems getting waste stuck in their hair, this is an excellent solution.
- **Sani Trim**– This refers to the sanitary areas on dogs. This keeps the potty areas clean between grooms.

We hope this little guide helps all of you pet parents out there when you're deciding upon the perfect style and cut for your four legged fur baby. We encourage you to mix and match the head, feet, and body for a unique look. Our job is about making your dog as happy and gorgeous as possible while achieving the look you want. For any other questions or to set up an appointment with one of our stylists, please [contact us!](#)