

Grooming

Grooming your pet should always be a pleasant bonding experience between you and your pet, turning it into a chore that is contentious will result in a dog that absolutely HATES being groomed.

Do NOT turn it into a battle. Always end on a pleasant note with praise.

For Golden Retrievers and Cocker Spaniels you will need to set aside 5-10 minutes once a week for a thorough brushing. Taking special care to rub their feet and ears at each occasion, to desensitize those feet. It is best if you put your dog on a grooming platform of some kind. This will prevent them from walking away (if you groom on the floor) and make them realize they must wait patiently until the process is concluded.

Vizsla have especially sensitive feet and you should work with them also. They are pretty much a wash and wear breed but a thorough bath once a month will loosen any dead coat and keep them smelling fresh. I recommend buying a quality dog shampoo by the gallon (concentrate) <http://www.hydrosurge.com/shampoo.aspx> is what I use and is economical and will last you years, as opposed to buying in small bottles.

Cockers are a non shedding breed, consequently, that hair will perpetually grow. Your puppy has already had two haircuts, one at 5 weeks and another prior to leaving. I recommend that you continue to have your puppy groomed every three weeks in order to promote proper 'grooming etiquette'. Your groomer will appreciate it and it will be easier on your dog in the long run.

Golden Retrievers are a shedding breed but with proper maintenance the hair situation will not be overwhelming. You may also shave your Golden. I do that in the summer with some of my dogs, they love it, especially if they are 'water' dogs. Professional grooming every 8 weeks to trim those feet, cut nail and tidy up those furnishings are recommended.

By Gina Vesco-Fox