



Breed Standard Grooming | Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

STUDY NOTES

Show or Comp Groom with Alicia Fragiadakis

PART 1

- Tigger is shown in the neuter class.
- Tigger is given a wash using texturizing shampoo and deep conditioning treatment to help his coat sit as flat as possible.
- Tigger's coat is dried using a high velocity dryer, ensuring it's done downwards for a natural flat look.
- Alicia starts grooming by doing Tigger's nails and pads first.
- She cuts the hair just at the base of the pads, careful not to trim the tops of the feet.
- Cavaliers are not supposed to be trimmed for show rings, they should look ungroomed and natural.
- Alicia uses a double rake to remove the undercoat without cutting it.
- She aims to get the coat to lay nice and flat, especially since neutered dogs have a more difficult to train coat.
- Once the rake stops taking out any coat, she switches to carding knives.
- Alicia starts with the wider toothed knife to remove the bulk of the hair.
- Cavalier coats should be left looking very natural and ungroomed.
- She removes soft, fluffy undercoat, aiming for a flat and shiny topcoat.

- Alicia finger plucks the hair where white goes into the tan to make patterns look neater.
- Using her fingers to pull out hairs is preferred to avoid cutting the coat, although latex gloves, rubber fingers, or stones can be used.
- Removing lighter, cream-colored hair uncovers the pattern on the dog and shows off the white furnishings.

PART 2

- Alicia has a preferred pattern for grooming, similar to clipping a Cavalier style cut.
- Typically, a four blade is used through the jacket.
- The front of the leg is sheared down while leaving a skirt and natural feathering on the front and back.
- Longer hairs are stripped from the centre of the back leg to show the dog's confirmation and avoid a heavy look.
- To create shape, Alicia leaves longer furnishings on the outside, removing the centre bit more.
- If pulling becomes difficult, a rake can be used.
- Alicia emphasizes on giving the dog a shoulder and removing long hair to clearly see the dog's actual body.

- Dead undercoat is removed from the front of the front leg, with furnishings left at the back.
- Alicia switches to a fine blade for hard-to-reach areas.
- Scruffy hair around the neck is trimmed down to avoid a 'no neck' appearance.
- A knife can be used to pull out thicker hair, caution is advised to avoid cutting the coat.
- Alicia expresses preference for stripping rather than cutting and advises against using a knife on the back of the dog's jacket.
- The back legs are also trimmed to show angulation.
- Alicia points out the difference between the desired glossy, strong, thick hair and the unwanted fluffy, soft, matte hair.
- Excessive hair is removed to reveal the dog's actual leg.
- Alicia emphasizes on reducing bulkiness for a better look.

PART 3

- Attempting to remove peach fuzz from the dog's head.
- Plan to thin down hair around the neck to give it shape.
- Raking out excess hair.

- Removing high-up neck hair to enhance the feathered chest.
- All facial hair is also removed.
- Distinguishing between hair that needs to be removed and stronger hair that stays.
- The top of the head should be flat between the ears, removing peach hair from there as well.
- Using a carding knife, sometimes a knife is used if hair doesn't come out with fingers.
- It's harder to pull out hair of a neutered strip dog.
- The goal is to remove as much dead hair as possible.
- Being careful with the stripping knife to not cut the coat.
- Comparison of done and undone sides of the dog.
- Trying to get the coat as flat as possible.
- Trimming the long hairs but maintaining a natural look.
- Using fitting shears to round the feet and making it look a bit messier for a natural look.
- Evening up the hair on the legs and feet that drag along the ground.
- Trimming the back hair slightly with the aim to keep it natural.

- Evening up the ears with thinning shears, rounding them off.
- The aim is to make the dog ready to go back into the ring.