

GROOMING YOUR DOG

Grooming is an important part of responsible dog ownership. When you groom a dog you are brushing, combing or trimming its coat to improve its appearance. Grooming is also important to keep a dog's coat healthy.

Purebred dogs have a variety of coats — long, short, double, broken and wire. Dogs can also have straight, wavy or curly hair. This activity sheet will illustrate the different ways to groom two coat types — double and short.



Dog owners use a variety of different grooming supplies to make each coat type look its best.



A **pin brush** has long, round-ended pins. These

types of brushes are used on breeds with long hair, such as a **Irish Setter**.

Dog owners use a **rubber currycomb** to massage the skin of shorthaired breeds, such as the **Beagle**. A rubber currycomb is round with short teeth.



A **slicker brush** usually has a wide base and metal bristles. The bristles are bent at an angle so the brush can slide easily through or over a

dog's coat. This brush is used to remove mats from double-coated breeds, such as the **Rough Collie**. It is also used on shorthaired breeds, such as the **Pug**, to remove loose hair.



Dog owners also use metal or plastic **combs** to groom their dogs. You can use a comb on almost any coat type.



Look at the pictures below and circle which grooming tools would best suit that dog. The questions have more than one right answer.

The **Siberian Husky** has a double coat made up of a long outercoat and a short undercoat.

1



- Slicker brush
- Pin brush
- Rubber currycomb

The **Bullmastiff** has a short coat.

2



- Rubber currycomb
- Slicker brush
- Pin brush

Answers

1. Slicker brush and/or pin brush. A double-coated dog's hair is too thick for a rubber currycomb to work well. The currycomb may tangle and break the hair. 2. Rubber currycomb and/or a slicker brush. A pin brush's bristles are too long to be effective on most shorthaired breeds.

