



GROOMING YOUR COLLIE

TEFLON COAT....meaning that most things don't stick in a Scotch Collie's coat!

Many people are concerned about a Scotch Collie's grooming needs, especially a White Collie. I can tell you from experience that it's amazing. They can run around, playing and working all over the farm all day through high grass full of seeds and burrs, in the mud, rolling in the dirt etc., but somehow few of these things seem to cling to the Collie for long. When the dog is ready to come inside you look at the coat and wonder why he is so clean. It's the Scotch Collie's Teflon coat. Most of the unwanted bits of field and wood have fallen off outside where they belong.

Along with this, I recommend that collies be professionally groomed twice a year, and lightly fluffed/brushed on an as needed basis in-between. Inadequate or lack of grooming can contribute to the development of "hotspots" where hairs that shed out are left to build up, and mat on the skin causing irritation and redness. Hotspots can be treated with hibitaine ointment (an antifungal and antibacterial product sold by most vets and some feed stores). However, prevention is always the best medicine!

Nail trimming can be arranged during veterinary visits and is included with professional grooming services. Inadequate nail care can contribute to impact pain, blood clots in the nail bed, or breakage and bleeding. Well cared for nails will help promote proper movement, and reduce the risk of muscle, tendon and spinal injury. If you would like to learn about canine nail care, please contact me.

Ear cleaning is encouraged on an as needed basis with regular grooming. It is very important to remember that the ears have tiny bones that can be damaged with excessive force or deep cleaning. A gentle wipe with a cotton ball moistened with hydrogen peroxide will most often remove any excess dust or oil and reduce the risk of infection.

TIPPING EARS

The Collie Standard calls for their ears to tip at about the top 1/3. Sometimes, usually at teething time, one or both ears will turn straight up, called pricked ears. The muscles are affected somehow by teething, or so they think. I recommend intervention when this happens or about 2 months old, otherwise you could end up with one ear up, one down, both up or both down like they're supposed to be. Some collies have naturally tipped ears genetically, but many do not.

Breeders go to great lengths to ensure their dogs ears tip as that is mandatory for showing. But there is much easier ways to encourage them to tip...the easiest and most convenient being simply to put a spot of glue (Tear Mender if you can get it) on the inside tip of the ear, bend tip forward and hold toward inside of ear and it will adhere to the hair. In time this will

come apart, no worries, remove any leftover glue and redo their ears. Many times this must be done for several months to ensure they tip. Many people do not care whether their ears tip or not!! It's owners preference. If you are not showing your dog, doesn't matter to anyone else but you!

Ps...Tear Mender is from the States and you will probably have to order online. Or go to the Tractor Supply in Lynden. I find it works best because it dries/attaches very quickly, usually in a minute or so. Speed Sew also works but takes much longer to dry and stay put and with a wiggly squiggly puppy, time is paramount!

FEEDING

Consult with your veterinarian or local pet store to select a brand of food for your dog. Once you have started your collie on a particular brand of food, avoid changing brands. Frequent changes in diet can lead to gastrointestinal upset and loose stools while your dog is adjusting to a new brand. I like to use the most locally made food that's good, without a lot of out-sourced ingredients. Acana is good, Pulsar made in Sask. and others.

Frozen raw meat is a great choice for dogs. It is the nearest food to what their wild cousins have eaten for thousands of years. It also keeps their teeth clean! There is a great family run business in Mission called Trysum that have reasonably priced raw meat.

Metal feed and water bowls are an excellent choice because they can be sanitized. Bacterial growth can occur in porous plastics or fine cracks in ceramic bowls.

I recommend that you only purchase hard rubber toys such as the "kong". I would also recommend Nylabones, and food based bones and treats. It is safe to feed COOKED beef bones, provided that they are too large to be swallowed or cause choking.

Please AVOID pig ears, rawhides, that can also cause death. I have personal experience with this from Salmonella infected pig ears. Chicken and pork bones can splinter or cause gastrointestinal perforation and bleeding, which can lead to medical emergencies and death.

HOUSING AND YARD SPACE

Ensure your collie has adequate access to shade and shelter within your yard or kennel area. Collies also like to nap outside and will appreciate dry areas for lying down. Providing a clean dry space for your collie outside will help to maintain a clean coat, and a clean house when your collie comes in. Before letting your collie outside please ensure that your fences are intact and gates are closed.

I never recommend tying your dog, much much better to have a kennel or fenced yard.

VETERINARY CARE

Please follow up with your veterinarian for routine shots and boosters. Your vet may recommend rabies or other vaccinations based on environmental risk factors and travel.

I highly recommend that you consult your vet about protecting your collie from heartworm, and Lyme disease, as these illnesses are prevalent canine conditions.

DANGEROUS DRUGS FOR COLLIES

Here is a list of drugs known to affect sensitive Collies. Most Collies are at the least MDR1 carriers and at worst Affected. Therefore always be on the safe side and just don't use these drugs, there are other safe ones! The only certain way to tell is to have a DNA test done on your dog.

Antiparasitic agents: ivermectin, milbemycin oxime, selamectin, moxidectin, abamectin

Gastrointestinal agents: loperamide (over-the-counter antidiarrheal agents, e.g., imodium AD, some formulas of Kaopectate and PeptoBismol)

Anticancer agents: oxorubicin, vincristine, vinblastine

Immunosuppressive agents: Cyclosporin, cyclosporin A, tacrolimus

Cardiac agents: digoxin, quinidine

Antibiotics: erythromycin, grepafloxacin

Steroids: dexamethasone, hydrocortisone

Tranquilizers: acepromazine

Pain control: butorphanol, ondansetron

Here is a list of drugs that could affect sensitive Collies*

domperidone	mitoxantrone	paclitaxel
rifampicin	morphine	etoposide

LEASHES & COLLARS

When on the leash it is best to use a choker collar because collies have narrow back skulls and can easily back out of nylon or belt style collars. Please do not use a nylon collar for anything more than identification purposes. Also, no chain link collars. They can rust especially in this West Coast weather and cause skin infection, another personal experience! For dogs with abundant coats I recommend going collar-less while at home and using a special leash that can be slipped over your dogs head combined with it's own lead line.

I also really like the rolled leather collars. They do not irritate the skin and hair does not seem to get caught as much.

HEAT STROKE

Collies have very warm coats, and can easily get heatstroke when left in the vehicle during the hot summer months.

If you must leave your collie in the car for any amount of time, ensure that the vehicle is running with the air conditioning on and that the windows are slightly open.

TRAFFIC

As I mentioned, collies are very social, and love people. Collies are not necessarily "car smart" dogs. They most often associate cars with owners coming home, or visitors coming to see them, and will readily approach and greet vehicles or just sit in the roadway and expect the cars to stop for them. Please keep your collie's safety in mind, and use a leash in non-fenced areas.

EARLY PUPPYHOOD TRAINING

Training your puppy should start in earnest the moment you get home! One of the first and most important is the Gentle command. Then of course sit, down, stay and maybe some tricks like roll over. In each Puppy Booklet there are ideas and suggestions on how to start including potty training. At about 4 months old after 2 shots, I recommend official training classes. This continues safe socialization with other dogs and puppies, which is so important when you're walking out and about encountering strange dogs whose behaviour you have no control over. If you're close to the Fraser Valley, I highly recommend Gentle Puppy Training,

Monique Charbonnier, 604-607-6564. I started with her and Ebony about 14 years ago, she is very good.

Feel free to reach out to us at Prairie Wynd Collies

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