



Expert Grooming Article



PICTURE: Miyagi by Barbara

Chinese Crested Hairless & Powder Puff

A relative newcomer to the show circuit, the Chinese Crested has nonetheless been a distinct and known breed for centuries, traveling with the Chinese sailors of old to the far flung corners of the earth, emerging under various names as far back as the 15th century in South America and Mexico. Finding great favour with the ancient mariners, this little breed of dog was a great companion and managed the rat and vermin population on the ships, a great boon especially during plague times. (read more over page..)



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Chinese Crested Hairless & Powder Puff

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This playful and entertaining breed is a joy to own and show, however, we are often asked by exhibitors who are often fazed by the grooming of the Powder Puff. Having owned a Hairless, they then are confronted with a Powder Puff and unsure as to what to do.

Your standard states variously in the two main standards, that is, AKC and Kennel Club: A soft veil, flowing, long guard hairs over a short silky undercoat, and straight. Penalties apply for excessively heavy, kinky or curly coat. So, the picture one has to maintain for the ideal silhouette, is not too big, not too excessive and smoothly flowing without over-exaggeration of grooming, but, maintaining a neat appearance.

For the Powder Puff as all colours apply, choose the shampoo best suited to your current need. Use **Plush Puppy Herbal Whitening Shampoo** for a coat needing toning and lessening of unwanted warm tones. This Shampoo is primarily derived from organic sources with Ginseng extracts, protein, and violet tone combined in a concentrated and rich formula.

For added shine without altering the coat texture use **Plush Puppy All Purpose Shampoo**. We call this the 'Shine' shampoo as it features natural Henna stalk extracts that impart a beautiful gloss and shine to your dog's coat. Natural All Purpose Shampoo is primarily derived from organic sources and also features Alpine and Lichen herbs. It is wonderful to use on normal to slightly dehydrated coats.

For a heavy or dry coat that requires flattening and softening use **Plush Puppy Natural Conditioning Shampoo with Evening Primrose**.

Dilute each of these shampoos 1:5 (1 part shampoo to 5 parts water). This allows for easier and even dispersion throughout the coat. To always have an even result make sure you measure and record the dilution rate at all times so as to replicate the procedure exactly each time. The additional advantage is that you minimise the amount of shampoo applied and lessen static in the coat. One should choose using the same criteria for the Hairless - there is less hair, but the choices are the same.

For the final rinse, again even dispersion is desired, and I like to recommend a mix that you leave in and don't rinse out. This is not only fast it is able to be reproduced each week and gives even dispersion. No point having the products on just a part of the coat when you need them through the whole of the coat.

For each Powder Puff Crestie mix into 1 Litre of water, 1 tablespoon of **Plush Puppy Silk Protein Conditioner**, 1 teaspoon **Plush Puppy Swishy Coat** and if working with a heavy, voluminous coat, add 1 teaspoon **Plush Puppy Blow Dry Cream**. The conditioner will assist in keeping the coat in a desirable pH state by closing the outer cuticle layer and assist in maintaining moisture. The Swishy will reduce static, aid straightening and add shine, and the Blow Dry Cream will flatten and soften. They each do a little of what the other will do but they each have overriding primary outcomes, hence the inclusion of at least the first two and the third if dealing with a particularly heavy or boofy coat. Apply with a large sponge and saturate the coat to ensure it is fully through the whole of the coat. Do not rinse out. You can adjust this recipe with either a little more or less of each item, but this is a good basic overall recommendation. For a cottony or puppy coat change, add a touch more Plush Puppy Blow Dry Cream.

Squish the excess out of the coat by hand and then blow dry using a warm not hot, dryer. Section the top layers of the coat up and starting at the underneath layers, dry the coat from root to end so as to minimise any flyaway effect. Use a gentle action with the **Plush Puppy Ultimate Pin Brush** so as not to overstretch the hair when in its fragile wet state. Then when 3/4 dry, switch to the **Plush Puppy Ultimate Anti-Static Porcupine Brush** as this brush will smooth the hair.

The Plush Puppy Ultimate Pin Brush is for easy brushing and not stretching while the Porcupine Brush with its half bristle and half dional cushioned structure adds more tension and therefore a smooth finish. However, do not use any bristle or densely bristled brush on a wet coat as you can overstretch at that point. By waiting until 3/4 dry you are safe to use the correct brush for straightening and smoothing. Try not to dry by brushing and flicking as this causes static and does not get the best action. Use the brush slowly and apply near root area on the top of the section and slide an inch or so and hold and dry with your warm dryer to flatten the root area as much as possible. Now switch the brush to the underneath of the section and slide whilst drying, then hold once you reach near the ends. The hair should be over the top of the brush curving over the cushion. This helps to curve the ends slightly under rather than flicking them up in the usual brush and flick drying action that a lot of people tend to use wrongly. Your desired outcome is to keep this coat draping, straight and flat.

Finish with a **Plush Puppy Professional Grooming Comb**, built for absolute ergonomic comfort in various sizes. The lightweight oval shaped spine combining fine and coarse pins made of hardened stainless steel with anodic oxide finish that reduces drag and static to the coat. Perfect for use for on a Powder Puff.

At times due to various reasons including the weather, static electricity can create flyaways. If this occurs use **Plush Puppy Anti-Static Coat Control**. This is a lightweight spray using the latest technology is infused with organic extracts of Witch Hazel Leaf, Linden Flower, Birch Bark and Nettle. It also adds to the protection, include a UV filter to stop sun damage and protect against heat strength for the perfect finished look of the coat. This amazing product is idea for Puffs and a must for your tack box.



The above is your basic routine for the show ring. You can for general maintenance, dilute all shampoos up to 1:10, but 1:5 is the best for show performance and I would still utilise the rinse mix even when not showing, to maintain the coat in pristine condition at all times.

I suggest using **Plush Puppy Reviva Coat** for daily moisture during the week either by direct application with your hands, or by mixing a golf ball amount with 1 cup water and spraying onto the coat. This is a good mix for wrapping for those who like to go the whole distance and is an ideal leave-in moisturiser for maintaining hydration in the coat. Hydration equates to elasticity and good elasticity ensures good length and longevity to the coat.

For the Hairless, apply Plush Puppy Reviva Coat directly to the skin to keep suppleness and good texture to the skin. You can often get a pimply skin and these need to be sloughed off regularly with a sugar-based skin scrub as one uses on human skin. There are some excellent quality ones around that are gentle and do a great job. Follow with a good moisturiser such as Reviva Coat applied daily. Remember they are quite unique being able to actually sweat.

For brushing, use **Plush Puppy OMG Grooming Spray**. This is an unbelievably performant product for disentangling, dematting or just general brushing. Dilute OMG Concentrate according to your needs, but for most situations, approximately 1:40 (1 part OMG to 40 parts water).

If using the OMG "Ready to Use", dilute with equal quantities of water to OMG. For a heavier action dilute OMG Concentrate 1:30, or the Ready to Use spray at 50:50 with water.

Using OMG can be a one-off at shows or during the drying process after bathing. This is also an amazing product for regular brushing as it hydrates the coat reducing stress and coat loss. Its active ingredients smooth the cuticle and protect the coat. OMG never builds up and never goes stringy. A product that took years to develop using amazing technology for maximum effects. A true necessity for the tool kit.

Some other helpful hints

If your Hairless has skin problems, then use **Plush Puppy Sensitive Skin Shampoo** diluted at 1:3 initially until the skin improves and then diluted progressively through to as much as 1:10 for maintenance.

A good extra for the Powder Puff's or even the furnishings on the Hairless is **Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil**. Dilute 1 teaspoon in 1 cup of water and apply during the week in a spray bottle. Shake well before using each time. This will help keep the lengths on the coat if you are not wrapping, as most don't. This stops matting, helps through the coat change and enables you to get that good length on the coats. Remember, a good coat starts long before the show!

Keep **Plush Puppy Powder Puff Regular** on hand for quick dry cleaning at shows. This all-natural product is a wonder for an instant clean without wetting the coat. After all, you have spent the time to blow dry and get it smooth so you don't want to wet it down and have to dry all over again! Just toss on the Powder Puff and work through with your fingers on the soiled area and either brush out or blow out with a quick blast of the dryer. Instant clean and deodorised as well.

All that is left to do is make sure the coat has a neat appearance, so some judicious trimming is allowed. Do it wisely.

For show day you can use the OMG for brushing and then **Plush Puppy Protein Coat Balm** which is a non-greasy anti-stat lotion applied to the coat just prior to ring time. You can re-apply this several times throughout the day without fear of overdoing it. Just keeps that coat from flying away in the ring.

Lastly, apply **Plush Puppy Odour Muncher** for that fresh fragrance and deodorising action. I believe judges experience all the aspects of a dog and a pleasant-smelling dog is one to behold.

Your Crestie is a regal and intense yet playful little dog. He certainly is entertaining and agile. His good trotting gait is a miniature working-dog gait without hackney and never stilted. Moving with good reach and drive he is a formidable opponent in any show ring. There are more and more of the Cresties finding their way to the red carpet as more and more people master the intricacies of grooming presentation and it is simple once you know!

Never be fazed and never be mystified. It is all learnable! I am captivated by this breed keeping a sharp eye out for whenever they are showcased. Truly magical.

