



Expert Grooming Article



Old English Sheepdog

This wonderful west country of England drover's dog is a great example of how a seemingly no-nonsense breed can be a lesson in how to present in the showring. For those that figure this breed is easy on the grooming as there isn't any trimming except for the feet and rear, you could be mistaken! Oh there is so much you can do! You can sculpt this dog with a blow dryer, your hands and backcombing. Your quest is to retain the silhouette and yet present all the grand lines and features of a balanced dog and you do have the profuseness of coat to do it. Who needs a pair of scissors? Best to start at the beginning. (read more over page...)



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This is a breed where texture is everything. For this use **Plush Puppy Texture + Shampoo**. It thoroughly yet gently cleanses and deodorises the coat of harsh or coarse coated breeds without softening or compromising texture. It's ideal for boosting body and coarseness in coats of all colours and coat types. Formulated to be pH controlled, it creates or maintains texture, is low irritant with a subtle apple fragrance and easy to rinse out. Use at 1:10 or apply undiluted directly to areas requiring cleansing. Rinse thoroughly. This can be used in conjunction with another shampoo.

For faces and heads use **Plush Puppy Let's Face It**. It's a hypoallergenic sulphate-free low foaming shampoo designed for faces. It's no tear formula contains the highest quality Blue Cypress extracts, Panthenol with Pro Vitamin B and SugaNate. These special ingredients clean, soothe, add moisture, aid healing and has anti-inflammatory benefits. A small golf ball sized amount directly to the face and eye area allows you to thoroughly clean without causing irritation. Can be used in and around ears also with the same benefits. Its low foaming design allows easy rinsing yet complete cleaning.

Plush Puppy Body Building Shampoo is also excellent for heads and rumps. Its special formula gives bulk and volume to the coat. Use diluted at 1:3 (1 part shampoo to 3 parts water).

Use the **Plush Puppy Herbal Whitening Shampoo** diluted 3:1 for the white areas. This has great tonal effect for reducing unwanted warm tones and helps reduce those reddish brown coat tones in transitioning coats from puppy to adult coats. For difficult stubborn stained white areas also use **Plush Puppy Wonder Blok** which helps to maintain a white stain free coat. It is not a bleach and contains no harmful chemicals but high amounts of naturally sourced vegetable surfactants and glycerin. This product is designed to remove unwanted warm or red tones to the coat. Use on a damp or wet coat. Gently rub into the areas requiring allow time (5-10 minutes) and rinse. For maximum effects repeat or allow a longer time for this amazing product to work. As with all products take care around eyes.

Never use conditioner as they are acid rinses which will flatten and soften, the very thing you do not want on an Old English. However you do need to hydrate the coat and keep the elasticity in the hair shaft. Use instead 1 tablespoon of **Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil** to 1 gal/4 Litres of water and saturate well through the coat a large sponge. Leave in - do not rinse out. This is a wonderful addition to your coat grooming routine. It does the most amazing things for the coat and skin. Perfect for mid-week coat protection.

For added texture use **Plush Puppy Powder Puff Terrier** on the butt and headpiece for extra texture. Just sprinkle through and lightly work in with hands and brush or blow dry to remove excess. Great fragrance too - mandarin and ginger! The side effect is texture, texture, texture! I like this next part - it is where you get to shape and sculpt your dog without violating your rules of standard. I adore **Plush Puppy Puffy Dog** mousse.

This gives you hold and texture and is totally water soluble, so you don't get build-up on the coat causing brittleness. Brittle coat is the greatest enemy you have when grooming. People tend to rip out the undercoat when grooming and even worse, do not bathe for fear of softening and then the coat gets dry and brittle and breaks anyway. If you bathe and oil the coat as outlined above you will have fabulous coats on your dogs.

Now plan where you want to put the Puffy Dog. You cannot possibly blow dry the whole of the dog in one hit and by the time you get to the other end the mousse will have dried too before you have shaped the hair. For ease of usage as you have a large dog, mix 3 golf ball amounts of Puffy Dog to 2 cups/500ml water and allow to dissolve by lightly rocking (not shaking) in a spray bottle.

Spray the hocks well and blow dry to shape. Use this same mix for the head blow drying forwards with the **Plush Puppy Ultimate Pin Brush**. You now need to keep that drop over the withers. Have a mix of 1 teaspoon of **Plush Puppy Swishy Coat** and 1 teaspoon of **Plush Puppy Blow Dry Cream** added to 1 cup/250mls water ready in a spray bottle. Liberally apply to the withers and base of neck so as to show that drop to maximum effect. I see too many people using wet towels to create this same effect only to have added humidity to the coat making the situation even worse.

Dry the coat thoroughly including legs and face. Brush through using either the **Plush Puppy Ultimate Pin Brush** either regular pins or long pins. This is a cushion based brush and gets into the coat without ripping at it. Alternatively you can use the **Plush Puppy Ultimate Slicker Brush**. It is perfect for legs. This allows the coat to be totally tangle and knot free and gives you a well finished coat to shape. Degrees of finish and drying are up to the individual; however you must always allow the coat to be

correct finish, shape and texture for an OES. 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 this breed of dog.

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 infused with organic extracts of Witch Hazel Leaf, Linden Flower, Birch Bark and Nettle. It includes a UV filter to stop sun damage and protects against heat. This amazing product is idea for this breed and a must for your tack box.

The same mix of Swishy Coat and Blow Dry Cream made earlier can also be used under throat and chest area to keep the hair down and not lose the outline. Remember, there is no trimming in these areas!

If you work on each area at a time rather than a blanket all over approach, you will get the symmetry and balance you are seeking. It is a big dog and there are a lot of parts you can single out to tweak the overall appearance. You have enough hair also to do it with. The Poodle is sculpted with scissors and clippers; yours is shaped with hands and dryer. You can use **Plush Puppy Powder Puff Regular** which will cleanse and deodorise and best of all give light texture to the feet, legs and hocks. Just dust through, rub in lightly and then brush out or blow dry out to remove excess.

Now the head piece - this is such an important part of the overall picture and one people tend to mess up or make a tangle of. Stand in front of your dog's head and brush back, away from the front, section by section starting at the back. Next, still standing in front of the head and using **Plush Puppy Sit N Stay** with a small amount applied to the hands and worked between the hands till warmed and passing over from wet sticky to a drier sticky feel, section horizontally from the front first and work through with the hands, wiping on section by section from root to almost the ends.

For those requiring extra shape for heads and rumps use **Plush Puppy HOLD** - a strong sculpting spray scientifically formulated for shaping all types of coats on Show Dogs. The quick drying formulation won't become sticky and will not build-up. HOLD can be removed with ease by simply shampooing the coat. Contains Pro Vitamin B5 to improve elasticity, moisture retention and flexibility in their coat hair. We recommend using and storing at normal room temperature for a perfect mist spray. Optimum spray distance is approximately 30cm (12 inches);

Allow to dry for two or three minutes. Then, still standing in front of the dog's head, with the head down and starting from the front area of the head, section horizontally and lightly back comb methodically and slowly, section by section from the roots to the ends, joining each section to the section before it. You want to create that forwards fullness that follows the arch of the neck. This headpiece sculpture should not move - what hairspray? Done correctly, you don't need hairspray and hairspray has alcohol in it causing brittleness and breakage.

Lastly a quick spray with **Plush Puppy Odour Muncher**. It literally munches the odour and leaves a light fragrance - certainly not too much and definitely not too little.

You can do final fluff around things such as a light dusting of **Plush Puppy Pixie Dust** onto the brush or sifted on with your hands. This is applied with a gentle touch and should be subtle with just enough to catch the light for enhancement.

If you have done this grooming routine properly and taken the time to focus on the various sections of the dog, you will have achieved an overall picture of balance and grace. Your breed the Old English may be an outdoors person and he may have come from country stock that was very no nonsense but, he is a masterful competitor when presented with intelligent presentation and attention to detail. His shuffling bear gait and his loveable eyes peering from beneath and through the fringes of his beautifully coiffed headpiece make him a stunning dog in a working man's group.

