



Expert Grooming Article

Papillon

The Butterfly Dog, immortalised by such noted painters as Rubens and Boucher, the "Butterfly" dog comes down to us from history as a tough and loyal little dog. Not for him the labels of a lap dog though he will settle amicably to that task as well. He is quite the outdoorsy type and will weather most climates whilst hunting out the odd rat or two, worrying it till it succumbs. (read more over page...)



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CONTACT

Plush Puppy® Australia Pty Ltd
info@plushpuppy.com.au
Ph: +61 7 3010 8800
8 Natasha Street, Capalaba QLD 4157
Facebook: PlushPuppyAustralia
Instagram: PlushPuppyAustralia



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The coat standard calls for a fine, silky texture with no undercoat. It should appear abundant, flowing and straight. Thus, one needs to keep the fluffiness out of the coat looking for that nice polished appearance to the texture of most of the body coat except for the chest frill which is to be profuse and needs a bit of lift and poof.

The Papillon though appearing delicate of bone is quite a little livewire dancing around the grooming. Every dog is different and can be at various stages in their coat development so an individual eye each time is important. Learn to evaluate your dog and what it is you would minimise and maximise and then apply the grooming technique which best suits this outcome.

For faces use **Plush Puppy Let's Face It**. It's tearless formula with anti-inflammatory benefits is hypoallergenic. Key ingredients are Blue Cypress extracts, panthenol and Pro Vit B. Apply a golf ball sized amount directly to the face and eyes, massage in without causing any irritation. In addition, can be used on ears for the same benefits. This dog you don't sculpt with the scissor, just your eye and clever lifting and flattening. Having decided what is the primary focus for the coat - shine, pearly white, condition, smoothness etc select the appropriate shampoo. Most tend to go for the **Plush Puppy Herbal**

Whitening Shampoo which doesn't bleach or lighten but rather tones the coat to give a brilliant finish to whites and enriches the tones of the coloured patches. Always dilute the shampoo for ease of application and evenness of effect. Use at a diluted ratio of at least 3:1 (3 parts water to 1 part shampoo) and up to 10:1 for maintenance.

Plush Puppy Wonder Blok 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 gently unwanted warm/red tones to the coat. Best used on a damp/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.

If the coat needs shine, then use **Plush Puppy All Purpose Shampoo** and if softening is the quest then use the **Plush Puppy Natural Conditioning Shampoo** all at the same dilution rates as listed above. I don't foresee too many times when one would want to body build this coat but perhaps there are occasions when one needs more lift though this is likely just the chest frill area and breeches, and there are other ways to achieve that without having to use two shampoos. You do condition this dog but do it lightly. Use **Plush Puppy Silk Protein Conditioner**. Use watered right down at around 10:1. You just want a slurry through the coat to keep the pH, slightly acidic and not to drag it down heavily. You can oil this coat too between shows if your Papillon does chase critters outdoors. No point having all that profuse flowing coat on ears and body if he snaps it off in the bushes at the bottom of the garden. Lightly oil with **Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil** ½ teaspoon to 1 quart/1lt of water and leave in.

Great maintenance regime! So having bathed and conditioned it is time to dry your showman for the big day. If the coat is too boofy or puffy, then use **Plush Puppy Blow Dry Cream** on those areas you want to flatten or soften. You can either use direct or as I prefer for evenness, dilute 1 teaspoon to 2 cups water and spray or sponge on to the specific part of the dog. For straightening lengths and a light flattening to the coat use the **Plush Puppy Swishy Coat** at a dilution rate of 1/2 tablespoon to 1 - 2 cups water depending on the abundance of coat. Dry with your fingers or **Plush Puppy Ultimate Anti-Static Porcupine Brush** on the short areas of the coat and switch to the **Plush Puppy Ultimate Pin Brush** to ¾ dry the longer lengths.

Finish them off with the Anti-Static Brush till fully dry. This give you the smooth, straight, silky finish you need for the furnishings. Never use a bristle brush on really wet coat as the coat is in a vulnerable state when wet and is prone to over stretch and thus break or split. By ¾ drying with the Pin Brush you are waiting till the coat is in a stronger position before attempting to really smooth the coat which the Pin cannot do well enough.

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 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 this breed and a must for your tack box.

For the profuse chest frill and breeches you may want more substance to this area so use the **Plush Puppy Volumising Spray** this is a ready to use formula. I light spray brush in and then dry.

On any stains use **Plush Puppy Cover Up Cream** with a light dab onto a barely damp sponge and pat lightly onto any stained or less than white areas that ought to be white. Add a flurry of chalk to dry and then brush. For legs use **Plush Puppy Chalkestral** applied evenly to areas before chalking. Either put a small amount into your hands and rub together to "warm up" and then rub into the area, or swipe a small amount into a damp sponge and evenly rub/wipe into the area. Apply chalk or white powder with brush immediately. A unique product that conditions the coat to minimise chalk dry out plus adheres chalk to coat. Totally water soluble. Tap on a small amount of chalk to fully dry and leave for 5 - 10 minutes before brushing excess off. This does provide good cover and does not seem to wear off during the day.

For those windy, dry days, use the **Plush Puppy Protein Coat Balm** which is a great anti-static to use just prior to going in the ring. A small amount onto the hands and wiped over the lengths of the coat to keep the snarls and tangles from the lengths works a charm. You can keep reapplying throughout the day without fear of the coat appearing greasy or separating. For a light polish and shine on the day, spray at a good distance as this is a fine coat texture, the **Plush Puppy Shine and Comb** and allow the mist to fall onto the top-line. Smooth your hand over the body and then lightly brush or comb. You may like to try this by spraying onto the brush and then applying but the mist approach is a good one and I don't like extra products apart from the Coat Balm onto the lengths at this point. Your hard work has been done and it ought to be perfect anyway. You can add a light dusting of **Plush Puppy Pixie Dust** onto the chest frill and pants and I do mean a light dusting.

The Glitter Fairy is not what we want right now, just a beautiful glamorous Papillon with a light glint and hint of shimmer. Don't forget to make him smell good too with the **Plush Puppy Odour Muncher** as dogs do get a kennel/crate smell after overnighting and I believe judges do use all their senses when judging. So, your dog looks good, you look good and you have perfected your ring craft to become a magical performance. The crowd turns as you enter the ring and you know; you and your little Butterfly friend are just the Ants Pants. It's a great thing to feel and acknowledge you have done your best and put in the hard yard when others sometimes don't. Your friend and ring partner is descended from those owned by kings and queens - he now looks the part - a regular little Prince.

