



Expert Grooming Article



Yorkshire Terrier

Your standard calls for the coat of the Yorkie to hang evenly and “perfectly” straight. If the standard calls for something specifically then that means they really want to see that. Standards are the bibles of dog showing and breeding. Nothing else and no-one else’s interpretation is final - they are just opinions, but the standard says it all. When in doubt refer to the standard. (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 standard says the Yorkshire Terrier coat is two major things, correct colour, and a straight silky coat. Simple but not always easy to achieve unless you do all the right things to it for the glamour presentation and if you show outdoors, keeping that nice straight coat looking like a waterfall is sometimes a hard battle.

The behind the scenes work for the Yorkshire Terrier coat is the focus. Doing the hard yard each week with wrapping and attention to maintaining the texture and length.

Bathing this dog is a quest to keep the shine and not allow the coat to become dehydrated which will hasten loss of coat colour. Use **Plush Puppy Conditioning Shampoo with Evening Primrose** diluted 1:5 (1 part shampoo to 5 parts water). This is a nourishing shampoo, helping to increase hydration while slightly softening your dog's coat. Derived from organic sources with a strong emphasis on Evening Primrose extracts to boost skin and hair regeneration. Recommended for dehydrated coats and highly effective in adding shine and assisting in detangling. Excellent softening and conditioning shampoo for soft, flowing coated breeds.

If the coat is beginning to fade it's colour, then use **Plush Puppy Herbal Whitening Shampoo** diluted 1:3 to enrich and deepen the tonal qualities. The Whitening Shampoo does not lighten or bleach but tones and minimises unwanted warm tones. This is a very useful shampoo to get that dark steely blue to the blue areas and deepen the tans which are required to be darker at roots with the head fall a rich golden tan. You cannot colour a dog, can you? You can assist by toning.

A breed that's face and coat is so important and yet great care is needed around the eyes. Use **Plush Puppy Let's Face It**. This is a hypoallergenic sulfate-free low foaming shampoo designed for faces. It's no tear formula with the highest quality Blue Cypress Extracts, Panthenol with Pro Vitamin B and SugaNate. These special ingredients clean, soothe, add moisture, aid healing and have 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 of rinsing yet complete cleaning.



Now as most small dog people take along a cast of thousands to every show, it is probably a good idea to save time during the bathing process by combining a couple of steps. In the final rinse water, add 1 tablespoon **Plush Puppy Silk Protein Conditioner** and 1 teaspoon **Plush Puppy Swishy Coat** to 2 litres of water. Play with this mix to suit, but it is a good overall one. Squish this liberally through the coat and thoroughly saturate. Leave in. The Swishy Coat will give the lovely drape, anti-stat and smooth straightness you require. The Silk Protein will give the comb

softness to the Yorkshire Terrier coat. This is your through and show bath routine.

When drying keep the air from the dryer warm and ensure the flow of the air is running down the length of the coat and not upwards which just causes snarls and tangles. Don't allow your brushing technique to be one that creates lots of static either. That means less busy brushing and doing slower steadier brushing. Use your **Plush Puppy Ultimate Pin Brush** while the coat is very wet so as not to overly stretch it and then switch to the **Plush Puppy Anti-Static Brush** when the coat is $\frac{3}{4}$ dry for smooth final finish. Stroking down the length of the coat to the tips and holding the brush in place and allowing the air to do the work for you will also prevent stretching and breakage. Hair when wet is susceptible to damage so it takes a calm and gentle hand when dealing with length on a coat.

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.

When drying use a light spray of **Plush Puppy FAST**. This is an innovative Blow Dry Spray that not only dramatically reduces drying time, but adds moisture and conditions the coat. It contains Australian Native Flame Tree extracts that are known for their brilliant hydrating properties. It also protects the coat from damage from sun and heat. FAST is amazing for a brilliant shine. A light spray to a wet or damp coat, then brush through before drying.

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 protects the coat with a UV filter to stop sun damage and protect against heat.

Wrap using **Plush Puppy Reviva Coat** which is a great non-greasy moisturiser. It's a moisturising mousse so you can either apply directly with your hands or do as we all do and for wrapping. Add 1 golf ball amount to 1 cup water and spray onto each section before wrapping. Use your selected wraps and gently band each section. Unwrap and redo at least every other day.

You can also between shows use the **Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil** for protection and hydration. This will add shine, hydrate and condition to the coat. It is a truly beneficial blend of using extracts of Calendula oil, Wheat germ oil, and Evening Primrose.

Add 1 teaspoon to 1 Litre of water, then either sponge on or sluice well through the coat and LEAVE IN. DO NOT RINSE. This is quite a unique product in that it is not greasy and totally water-soluble. It gives an outstanding healthy vigour to the skin and coat. Gives a nice shine and enriches the coat colour. This is a good protector for the coat especially if the coat is less than wonderful.

You can also use **Plush Puppy Coat Rescue** once a month or more if necessary. It is an intensive conditioning treatment that deeply rebuilds and revitalises dry or damaged coats. Rinse well and follow with the **Plush Puppy Silk Protein Conditioner** and rinse again to give the comb through qualities that conditioner adds. Treatments treat, then conditioners close the cuticle and allow easier combing.

Another brilliant product for this breed for regular brushing is **Plush Puppy OMG**. OMG is the perfect product for the Yorkies soft fine coat. Brushing in a light spray of OMG allows it to refresh the coat leaving it with the most amazing finish. Use the Concentrate formula at a ratio of 1:40 (1 part OMG to 40 parts water). The stronger the mix the stronger their effects. This breed only requires a weak mix, hence the 1:40 ratio. An amazing product for regular brushing also as it hydrates the coat and reduces stress and coat loss. OMG never builds up, never goes stringy. Also available in a ready to use spray. A true necessity for every tool kit.

You can trim for neatness, and you do trim the hair on tips of ears. The fall on the head is tied with a bow, the way you place the bow is in keeping with the balance of the head and not dragging too far back nor sitting into the eyes. Place it to suit the best attributes of your dog. Practice this till perfect or watch a clever groomer do this when out of town!

Tails should be carried slightly higher than level of back though with the introduction of tail docking in many countries the picture of the tail of old is changed. Should make for some interesting silhouettes in the ring and my opinion of what looks correct in these cases is still out with the jury.

You have done the check list I hope before show day. You have wrapped muzzle hair, top knot hair, body coat hair, fall, tail hair and conditioned, oiled, treated and moisturised and the coat is flawless with colour rich and true, all coat lengths draping like a waterfall to the ground. The coat is not scratchy, it feels silky and is glossy. You can add a teaspoon **Plush Puppy Blow Dry Cream** to the final rinse mix of conditioner and **Plush Puppy Swishy Coat** if the coat is a changing from puppy coat to older coat, or is a boofy coat that refuses to drape. Blow Dry Cream will flatten and soften.

Now for that show day glamour, use a touch of **Plush Puppy Protein Coat Balm** onto your hands and apply from the part to the tips of the coat. This is a great anti-stat and can be used repeatedly during the day without greasiness. The coat will not separate and hang stringy. Apply an extra amount to the hem of the Yorkshire Terrier coat prior to going into the ring. Always apply to the lengths when brushing. Try to avoid the bristle brush during the day to avoid static. I know this is a sacred cow as the bristle brush polishes the hair but it causes static too so don't overdo it.

Show day a light spray with **Plush Puppy Odour Muncher**. It literally munches the odour and works well for smelly problems such as emergencies in transit etc. Leaves a light fragrance - certainly not too much and definitely not too little.

Your Yorkshire Terrier does have origins as a terrier from the Scottish weavers and was blended with a few different ancestors along the way. He is spirited and he is cheeky and does have a big dog mentality. However as a Toy he is often pampered yet on show day he will strut it along with the best and biggest and surrounded by all that wonderful glamour of a long swinging coat. He is a busy little dog with a very confident air and his demeanour says I want it all and I want it now. Gosh! Attitude and glamour all in the one package. No wonder they win such a lot.