

# Melrakki Cotons

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## Grooming your Coton Puppy

Grooming your Coton de Tulear is an ongoing procedure throughout the lifetime of your dog; it is not something that you can leave for a few days as your dogs coat will become matted and it is then difficult to remove these mates without hurting your dog.

Regular grooming of your new puppy helps you form a bond which will last throughout your dog's lifetime and is very important as it is a time when you can check for anything out of the ordinary, such as irritation, cuts foreign material in the hair etc.

Your new puppy will need to be groomed for approximately 10 to 15 minutes a day, but try to make this an enjoyable experience for both of you as your puppy may start to get bored and begin to fidget after a few minutes. Always speak to your puppy encouragingly as this should help him/her to relax.

I would recommend, in the initial stages, to try to groom your puppy on your lap as this is a comfortable position for both you and your puppy. Eventually, however, you will need to move to either the floor or a grooming table where you can lie him/her down.

**Never groom your dogs coat dry as this will break the hair and can damage it. Use a good grooming product which can be obtained from the following companies:**

**Plush Puppy, Hub International, Dezyner Dog or any good pet store.**

**If you are unsure which product to use, please do not hesitate to call me for assistance.**

**Brush and comb has been provided in your puppy pack.**

To groom your puppy proceed as follows:

1. Lightly spray the entire coat with grooming spray avoiding the eyes and go over the entire coat with the puppy brush provided, this will help to loosen up any small tangles and make it easier for you to groom.
2. Take the comb and gently comb through the coat, teasing out any knots.
3. Check the ears are clean and hair free. I use Thurnet Powder on my dogs which I find helps greatly here. However you need to be gentle when plucking out any hair that is growing into the ear. Be careful not to put anything into the ears as this can cause problems in the future.
4. Check eyes for any debris and remove gently with eye wipes or cotton wool pads soaked with water or an appropriate eye cleaner.
5. Check the length of the claws and clip the tips off. This should be done every week initially as your puppy's claws grow very quickly; when your dog is older every two weeks. If you don't feel confident to do this then your vet can do this for you at a nominal cost. However, your dog trusts you so for his or her sake try to do this yourself.
6. You should also get into the habit of wiping your puppy's bottom even if it is not dirty as one day the dreaded dirty bottom will arise and if your dog is not use to having his bottom wiped you will find it difficult to clean him/her. I would suggest that you always have touche wipes handy as these also act as a deodorant.

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As your dog gets use to the grooming procedure you will be able to step up the amount of time spent, until you are grooming for at least 15 minutes a day.

By this time your dogs coat will be getting longer and I would suggest that you groom in sections starting with the legs and working up over the bottom on to the back and finally finishing off with the head. You will need to work from the skin outwards to ensure that there are no mats or knots close to the skin.

However, if you feel you do not want to let your dogs coat grown long then many pet owners choose to have their Cotons coat cut down into a puppy cut which is about two to three inches all over which is much easier to maintain.