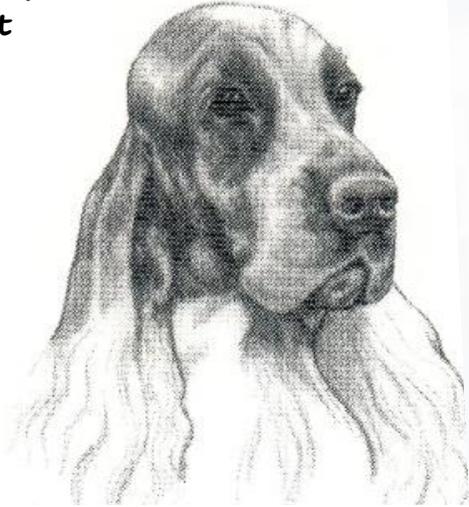
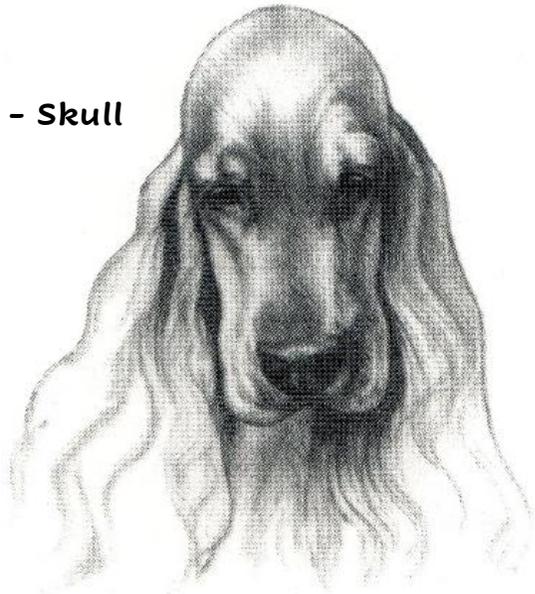


# Beginners Guide to Basic Show Grooming an English Cocker Spaniel

A-Head, Ears and Throat



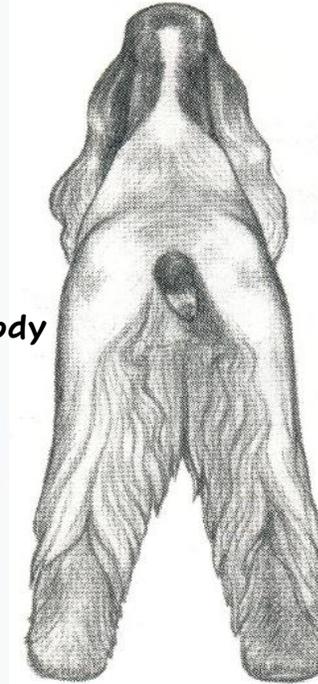
B - Skull



C- Shoulder, Sides of Neck



E -Top of Neck, Withers, Back, Rump, Upper Thighs & Sides of Body



D -Hock

Forelegs



F - Fringe

Feet

Trimming should appear as subtle as possible, as if the coat naturally grew that way

Tools:	Description	Brands	Use
Clipper	With #10 blade *#7F and #4 blade (pets)	Oster or Andis	Muzzle, neck and ears ( *for pet trim)
Strippers	Stripping knife with teeth (not a blade)	Hauptner-Real, Nichrostand, Classic or Mars	To be used in a comb-like fashion
	Fine-tooth flea-type comb	English brand "Sprats"	For stripping top coat, skull, legs and thighs
	Stripping Stone	Various	Thinning, blending
	Coat de-shedding rake	Mars Coat King and/or Andis	Thinning, blending and shaping
Brushes	Pin	Hinds	General brushing
	Slicker	Various	Brushing out mats
Straight Scissors		Visit a vendor and try them out to see what works for you	Finishing and touch up
Thinning Shears	42 -44 teeth, one side only	"Taperfine" or similar make	For blending and shaping
Comb	Fine/coarse combination	Greyhound type	General

**\* Inappropriate use of any stripping tool will be damaging to the coat. Always work gently preserving the guard hairs as you remove some (not all) of the undercoat.**

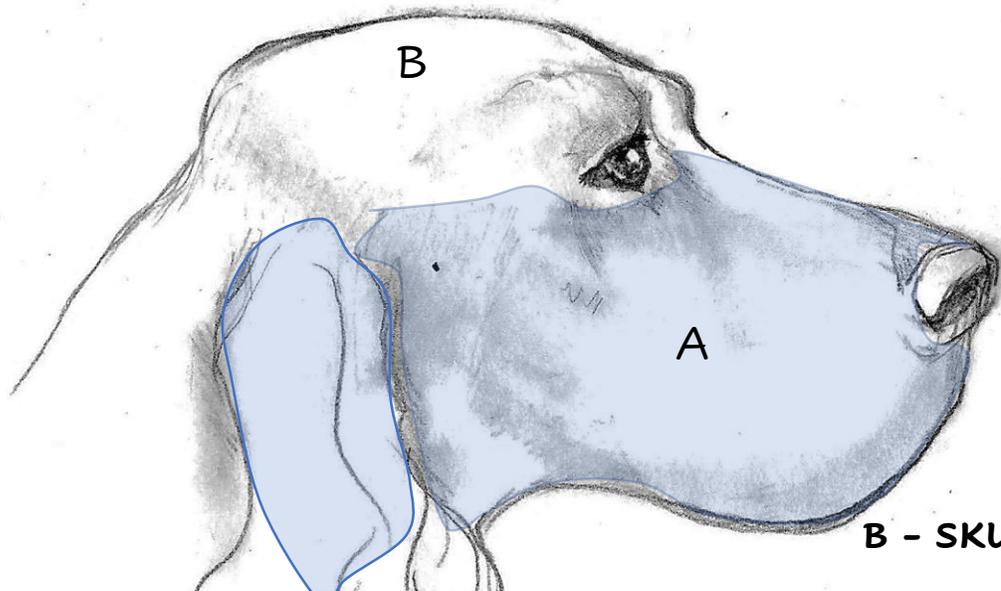
The following instructions are basic in order to give the beginner the general idea of how an English Cocker Spaniel should be groomed for the show ring. Please seek out a mentor to demonstrate these techniques to help you truly learn how to properly groom this breed.

From the AKC English Cocker Spaniel Standard:

**Coat:**

**On head, short and fine; of medium length on body; flat or slightly wavy; silky in texture. The English Cocker is well-feathered, but not so profusely as to interfere with field work. Trimming is permitted to remove overabundant hair and to enhance the dog's true lines. It should be done so as to appear as natural as possible.**

NOTE: When trimming, always strip out a coat before a bath, and only do the thinning/scissoring work after the dog has been bathed and the hair blown dry straight, as you would for the show ring.



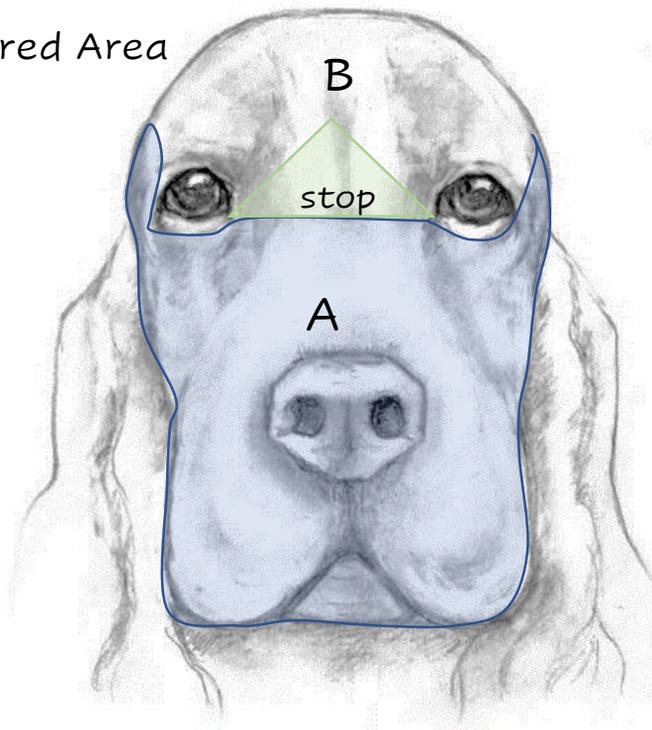
## A - HEAD, EARS & THROAT

Using a #10 blade, carefully clipper the muzzle and cheeks, (depending on the dog, either with or against the growth of hair), the top 1/3 of ears (inside the flap as well), throat and underjaw. All clipping should be done a week before the show to allow for a natural looking trim and finish.

\*Remember to practice well ahead of the show, all dogs are different!

## B - SKULL

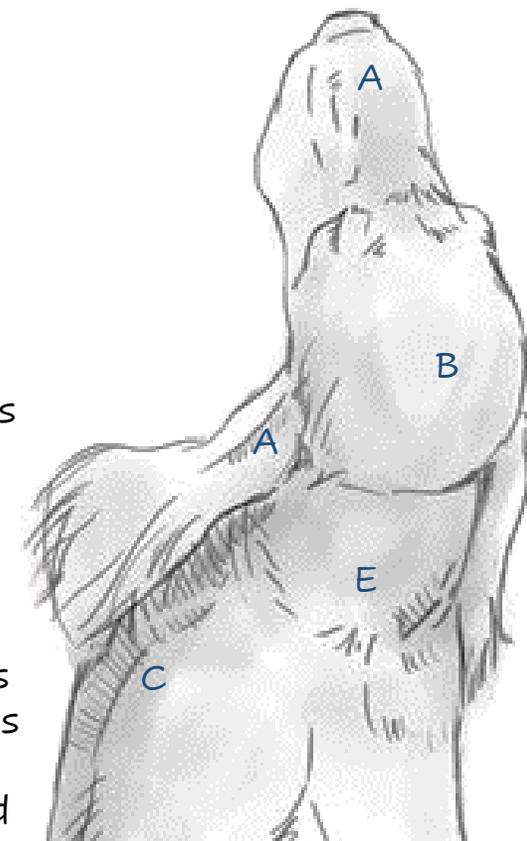
● Clipped Area



The hair on the top of the skull should be at least 1/2 inch long, combed and trained to lie flat. **NEVER CLIPPER THE TOP OF THE SKULL.**

Use your fingers or a stripping tool to achieve a softly contoured and natural finish. Thinning shears can be used sparingly to shape and blend into the clipped area, always working with the growth direction of the hair.

Between the eyes, clean the stop into an upside down "V" shape using a stone or clippers. Blend this into the longer hair on top of skull. Blend the brows into the skull. This breed has a moderate stop, do not create a topknot. The skull should be be arched and slightly flattened on top.





### **C - SHOULDERS, SIDES OF NECK**

This area is kept shorter than the back by careful use of a stripping tool and thinning shears to blend. Keep it as natural looking as possible.

### **FORELEGS**

In order to keep the natural Spaniel pattern, use stripping tools to remove excess coat on the front and sides of the leg, while keeping enough coat to give depth and protection. Blend out and back to the fringe on the back of the leg, this should appear seamless with no obvious lines. Elbows should have hair cleaned up and close to the body.

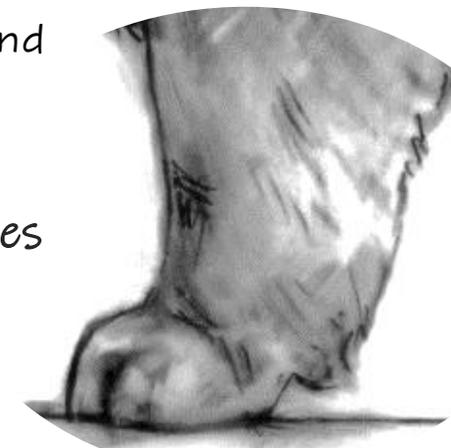
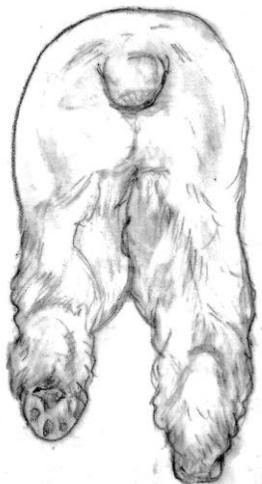
### **FEET**

Use thinning shears to tidy up the feet, do not touch the top of the foot except to smooth down curls. It should look in balance with the leg, round, cat like and high-toed. Clean out between pads of foot carefully with a clipper. Keep nails short.

### **D - HOCK**

Hock area is shaped with thinning shears to show the natural lines and prevent excessive coat from hiding the dog's rear.

When trimming front and rear, have the dog moved for you several times during the process so that you can see what you are accomplishing.



**E - TOP OF NECK, WITHERS, BACK, UPPER THIGHS, RUMP and SIDES OF BODY.**

**The jacket lies flat to the body with natural length and enough depth to afford protection.**

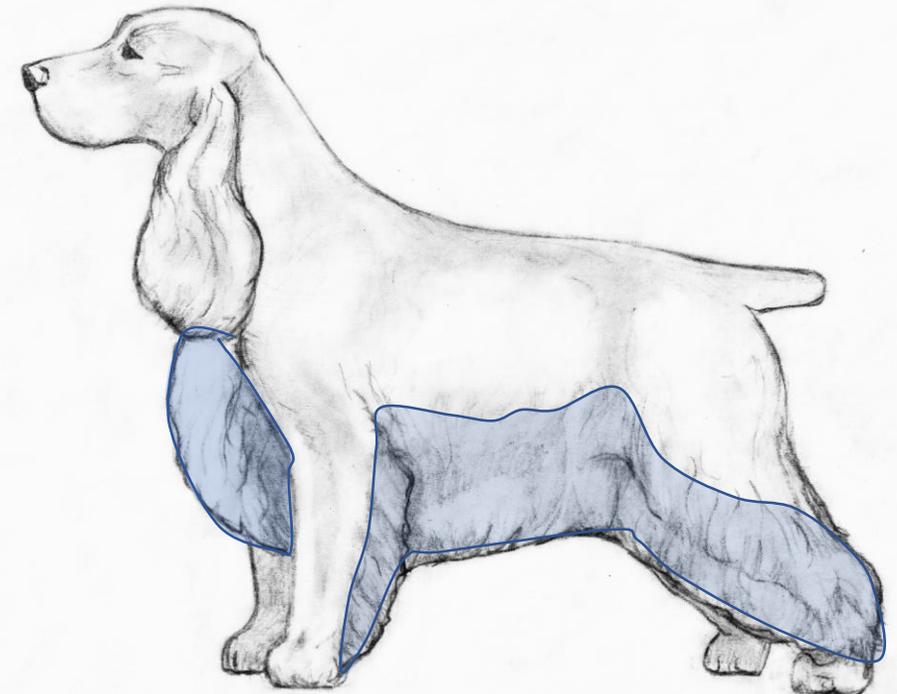
This area should be hand-plucked and/or carefully stripped with a tool. **IT IS NEVER CLIPPED.** Thinning shears should never be used in this area as they will damage the top coat. The area under the tail and to the back of the rump can be trimmed and tidied with thinning shears, keeping the coat looking natural and blending into the other areas.

**F - FRINGE**

**The feathering follows the contours of the body with no trimmed in exaggerations.**

Fringe (feathering) on the side of the body should begin just below widest part of the rib cage, with a subtle transition from the back coat. The underline of the feathering should conform to the contours of the body. Use thinning shears to tidy the fringe underline to echo the body shape.

The fringe on the front of the hind leg is trimmed with thinning shears in a line from top of the rear toes to tuck-up; it will conform to the natural shape of the leg if done this way.



## PET TRIM

Clipper Area A and C with #10 blade and Areas B and E and front of forelegs with #7F blade. Use a #4 (skip-tooth) blade on the inside, outside and back of hocks. Keep fringe area about one inch long, trimming with straight scissors. Clipper the feet in between pads with a #10 blade and on the top with a #7F blade - no mud in the house. Keep your retirees with their faces trimmed every two weeks, along with trimming nails, cleaning teeth and ears, as well as a bath every two weeks, and everything else trimmed every two months, there will be NO mats!

Note: The #7F blade is a coarse blade and is perfect for those who do not wish to trim their English Cocker close on back and sides.

The ECSCA has several grooming seminar presentations available on our website <https://englishcocker.org/>. These presentations will be very helpful if used in tandem with this chart.



## English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.

Created by the Breed Education Committee, 2020

**Illustrations by Patricia Janzen, Eileen Weston and Genelle Joseph**

part of this presentation may be used, copied or reprinted without the expressed, written consent of the ECSCA.

