

# How to trim your Cairn Terrier

This guide is mainly intended for the pet owner. Show exhibitors usually will only trim their Cairn by using the finger and thumb method but it is appreciated that many pet owners will only want to use scissors on their pet. Scissoring can sometimes result in a softer coat. It is important to use a serrated pair of scissors, everywhere on your Cairn apart from around the feet and the ears, when a curved pair with a smooth cut should be used. Serrated edge scissors result in a more natural trim. A grooming table with a non slip surface is very useful.



Grooming Table



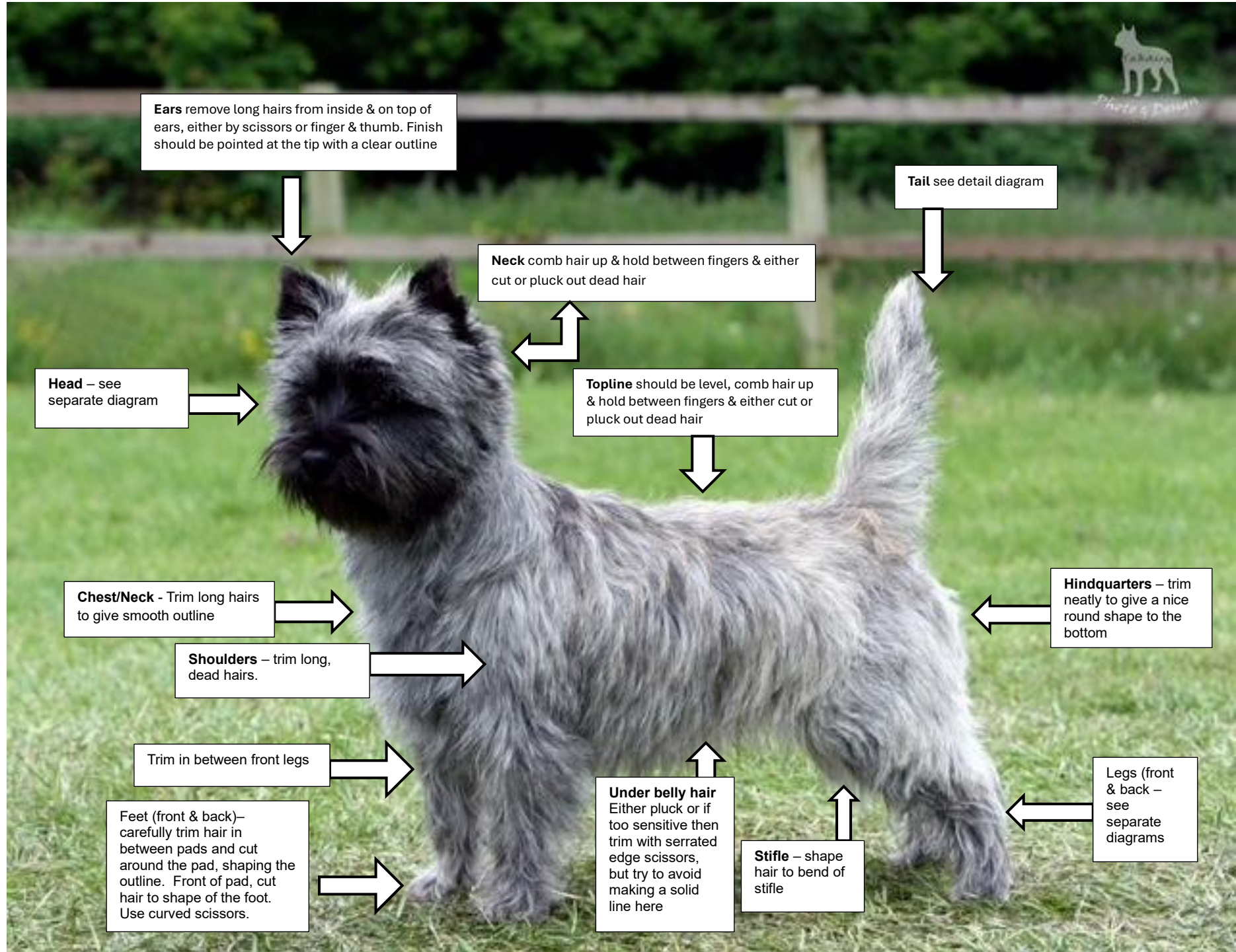
Steel Comb



Serrated edge scissors



Curved scissors



**Ears** remove long hairs from inside & on top of ears, either by scissors or finger & thumb. Finish should be pointed at the tip with a clear outline

**Tail** see detail diagram

**Neck** comb hair up & hold between fingers & either cut or pluck out dead hair

**Head** – see separate diagram

**Topline** should be level, comb hair up & hold between fingers & either cut or pluck out dead hair

**Chest/Neck** - Trim long hairs to give smooth outline

**Hindquarters** – trim neatly to give a nice round shape to the bottom

**Shoulders** – trim long, dead hairs.

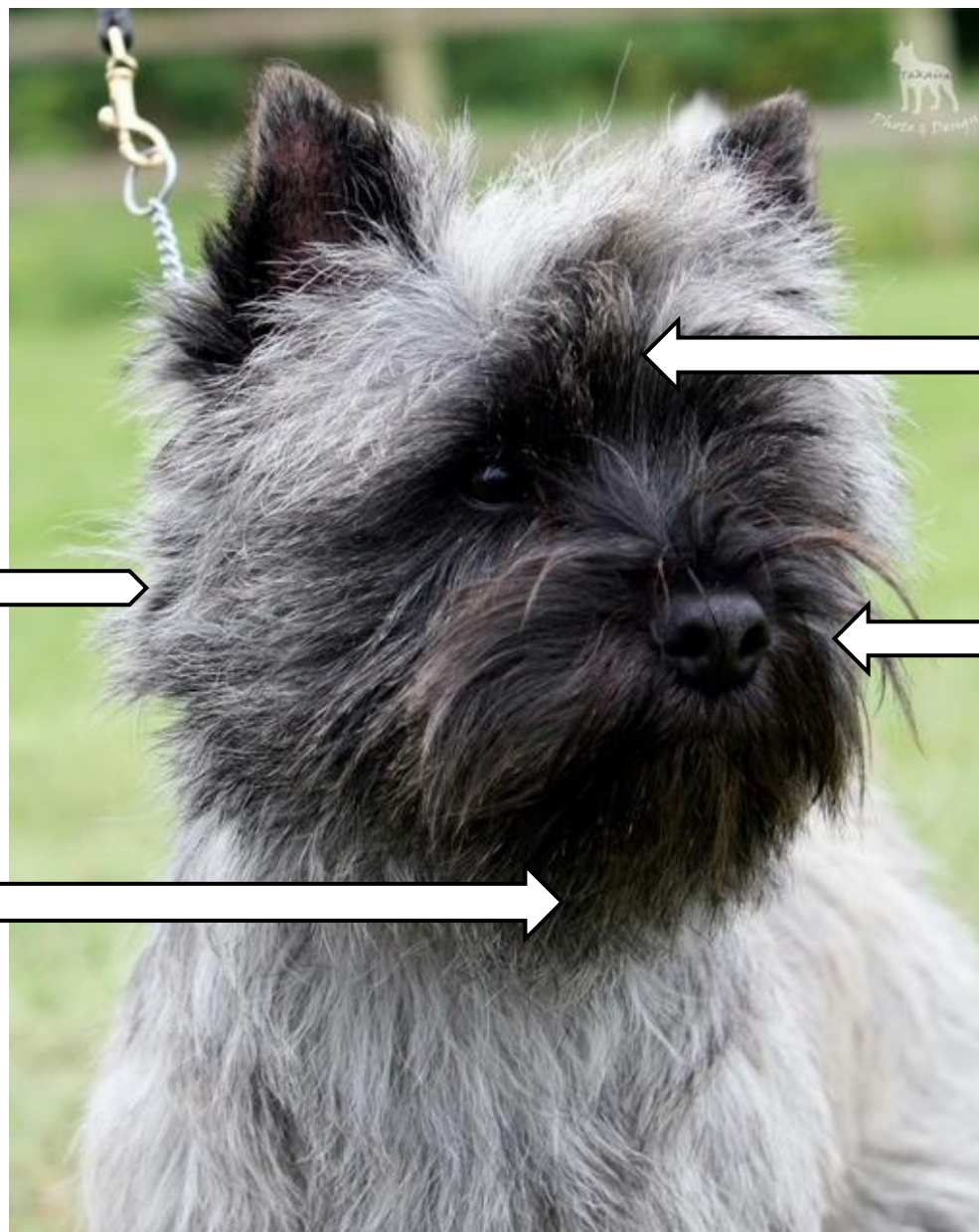
Trim in between front legs

**Feet (front & back)**– carefully trim hair in between pads and cut around the pad, shaping the outline. Front of pad, cut hair to shape of the foot. Use curved scissors.

**Under belly hair**  
Either pluck or if too sensitive then trim with serrated edge scissors, but try to avoid making a solid line here

**Stifle** – shape hair to bend of stifle

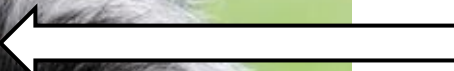
**Legs (front & back)** – see separate diagrams



Shape the rest of the head hair around to give a natural appearance



Keeping the furnishings short will enhance the expression but should not obscure the eyes completely.



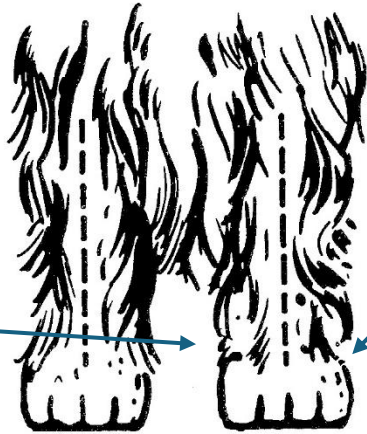
Keep hair fairly short around the muzzle



Trim underneath the chin and blend the hair to the neck



Trim inside the front legs to give a straight line from chest to base of foot

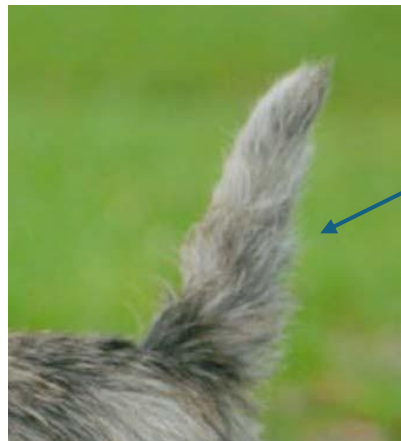


Trim outside the front legs so that you have a straight line from top of shoulder to base of foot

Trim inside rear leg to give another straight line



Trim outside rear leg to give straight line from thigh to base of foot



Stand your dog with head to the left. Trim half an inch from the top of the tail and shape the back of the tail as shown here, removing long hairs. Then turn the dog around and trim the front of the tail in the same way. The end result should resemble an inverted carrot.

Then turn your dog so that his rear is facing you and hold the tail towards you with the flat of your hand. Then trim any remaining long hairs from both left and right of the tail.