

# GROOMING WHITE THE WHITE JERSEY WOOLLY: TIPS & TRICKS FOR EVERY BREEDER

Republished from the 2013 Fluff Spring issue  
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Few things are as lovely as a perfectly groomed white Jersey Wooly with the coat draping perfectly over the well-rounded body and the guard hairs sparkling in the light.

This subject applies to the Ruby Eyed White; Blue Eyed White; Pointed White, and lightly marked Broken. The most important thing to keep your whites white is to keep the cage clean. No rust anywhere. Rusty cages tear and break coats, as well as staining the wool and footpads.

Brand new cages will rub off on the wool, leaving a dingy grey coloration on the wool as well. I prefer to leave new cages out in the weather for a couple of weeks, including in the rain; this removes the grey from the wire instead of it coming off on the rabbit.

If you have solid dividers and urine guards you may have problems with the rabbit that like to back into the corners to urinate; and then the urine stains the wool around the tail, hips and lower hind legs. Another frequent problem in growing juniors is Red Urine (a natural metabolite circumstance at certain stages of growth). Red Urine causes the urine to be color from orange through rust even to a bright red. It can appear to be blood stained but is not. The Red urine has a strong tendency to stain the coat; so, it is important to keep the cage extra clean at this time. You can use a toilet brush dipped in soapy water (Dawn and water is excellent) and scrub corners with it.

### Getting started – Blow the Coat

To groom the rabbit, I strongly suggest blowing the coat

once a week. You can buy a high velocity blower (HV) or check your local automotive supply houses; the HV is often sold as a motorcycle dryer. You can also get a small shop vac and reverse the hose so it is on the outflow valve rather than the intake valve; get one with a 2-inch hose rather than a 3 or 4 inch hose. Get a concentrator nozzle; [cone shape] and put on the end. Until your rabbit is used to being blown out, place a hand over the head, ears and eyes to help him/her remain calm; starting at the hind end start blowing into the coat at the bottom and methodically blow the coat bottom to top, back to front; tip the rabbit up and do the belly and chest and around the neck as well; you should go over the entire rabbit; use the same pattern each time. The first few times you blow the rabbit you will be shocked at the amount of dander, dust and dirt that comes out of the coat; it will look like a fog coming off the coat. It will also coat the wall behind the table, the table and if you wear eyeglasses, it will coat the lenses, as well. It is better to not be wearing contact lenses but to protect the eyes with goggles instead. Then go back with your gentle slicker and comb and straighten out the coat. Blowing it will open up any webbing before it turns to matting; and you can remove it with the brush and comb.

### Trim Nails

Make sure that your Jersey Wooly's nails are properly trimmed.







this could cause bleaching of the nose, tail and feet. On them use only the white vinegar, cornstarch and or no rinse shampoo.

### Show Day

Always check over your rabbit first thing in the morning at the show; blow, brush and comb as above; but stain removal should have taken place at home. Check their bottoms to make sure that the night feces have not gotten caked on their bums. Also, check the lower shoulder wool on both sides. I have owned a number of top winning does that somehow would get feces along the table line on their shoulders; due to the lack of space in the carrier to allow them to freely clean themselves at night. If feces are found on the bottom, rise off with water and no rinse shampoo, then wipe dry with a paper towel. A small amount of corn starch can be used as long as you have a blower to remove an excess.

### Tackling stains

If the coat has developed discoloration or staining it can be cleaned using several methods; for mild discoloration using white vinegar followed by cornstarch; let dry and brush out. If the discoloration is stronger, use Hydrogen Peroxide and cornstarch. In a worst case scenario, a solution of equal parts Hydrogen Peroxide and Milk of Magnesia can be mixed with enough cornstarch to make a paste; rubbed into the stains, and then brushed out when dry. Repeat if necessary.

For Pointed Whites, do not use any of the peroxide formulas;

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*\*\*Deidre has made countless contributions to the Jersey Woolly breed; won breed at national shows; served many years on NJWRC board as District Director for 2 different districts and vice president 1 term; was inducted into the NJWRC Hall of Fame in 2015*

