

A GUIDE TO

GROOMING YOUR

Bolognese



**American
Bolognese Club**

The ABC would like to thank Fredrika Rönquist and Jessica Manders for their valuable insights and contributions toward this document.



For the love of the breed:
A word from *Marsha England*

founder of the ABC

To maintain the distinctive, rustic, and natural appearance of the Bolognese, it's important to follow correct grooming practices.

Proper grooming preserves the breed's authentic appearance and is one of the most effective ways to raise awareness about this rare breed. When people encounter a dog they can't immediately identify, their curiosity is piqued, prompting them to ask questions and learn more about the breed.

If you are looking for a companion cut, please see the guide on our website. It shows you how you can keep a shorter body length, while keeping the ear and tail hair long. These simple adjustments will draw attention to the breed and help showcase its distinctiveness, sparking interest and admiration for something rare and unique.

The Bolognese Coat

The correct structure of the coat is essential. A natural, rustic appearance is key: Over-grooming can destroy the breed's charm. The coat should look natural and not overly styled, unlike the Maltese or Bichon Frisé.

The Bolognese coat consists of two types of hair:

- Primary hairs: These are slightly thicker and coarser.
- Secondary hairs: These are soft, woolly, and more prone to breakage

The black arrows show the thicker, harder and glossy hair.



The signature crinkled texture of the Bolognese coat is achieved when the secondary woolly hairs gather around the primary hairs.

How to Get That Bolo Groom



The Convenience Cut

1. The hair on the head is long and blends naturally into the top of the ears. As the hair goes down the back of the neck, work the length from long to short to blend into the hair length on the body. Groomers often aim for a clean, rounded shape, but the Bolognese head coat is meant to have a more natural, slightly disheveled appearance rather than a perfectly round look. To achieve this, use chunker shears when trimming to avoid creating a round shape. See both pages for full instructions.



2. Some companion owners trim the face as seen in the photos to the left, but to achieve the true, natural look, do not ever cut this area. Simply comb down the hair as it grows between the eyes and on the muzzle. See below.



3. The bottom of the ears are not blunt cut across, but left long and natural.

4. If you wish to keep a shorter coat, keep it at least 3/4 inch long.

5. The hair on the tail is left long.



The Convenience Cut

NOTES

Head: The coat on the head should flow right into the top of its ears. You should not be able to tell where the hair on the head ends or the ears begin. When the hair gets too long, it will split/part near the middle & fall into the eye area. Using chunker shears on the head help to keep the natural, rustic look that sets this breed apart from other breeds.

Face (Eyes & Nose): European owners do not cut any hair on the face. **To keep this natural look**, do not cut the hair on the face at all. Simply comb it downward and let it grow. If you wish to remove hair that is stained, you may trim it slightly, cutting as little hair as possible. Some owners in the U.S. choose to trim the beard, face, and area between the eyes, but please do NOT shave the bridge or sides of the nose. **That changes the look of the breed completely. Think Poodle.**

Ears: The ears are long and should never **seem** trimmed. You should not be able to tell where the ears begin or end. The ends of the ears should flow smoothly—right into the neck/upper chest hair. Be sure to keep the inside of the ears clean as well. **Cutting the hair on the ears short changes the look of the breed completely—think Bichon Frise.**

Stomach: You may trim and thin the hair at the top of the front legs, where they rub together with their body, to help prevent matting in this area. You can lift the belly hair and trim just the bottom layer a bit shorter so it doesn't mat, especially if you like to keep the skirt longer. Both of these techniques should not be noticeable.

Body: Leave at least 3/4" length hair over the majority of the body for a companion cut.

Tail: The hair on the tail is left long.



How to Get That Bolo Groom The Exhibitor's Groom

The key to this show ring look is to keep the dog looking "as natural as possible"

Please do not scissor the coat for an overly-groomed look for exhibition.

**Note—The curl will have more consistency in the adult subject, than in the puppy.

**Don't cut the hair around the eyes.
Comb the hair around the nose and
between the eyes downward as it
grows.**



**Leave coat on head longer than body.
The hair on the head should flow right
into the top of the ears. Comb/Tease
upward to allow eyes to be seen.**

**The hair on the
tail is left long.**

Keep the face as natural as possible.

The ears are left long.

AVOID

**A FRESHLY GROOMED LOOK &
BLOWN OUT COATS IN THE RING**

Pictured: C.I.B. SECH NOCH FINCH NOW-13 WW-14 Hunky-Dory Gina Superba



****It is advised to let the dog's coat air dry rather than blow-dry it to maintain its natural texture for shows. Between shows, you may brush the coat out to prevent it from tangles and knots.****

The Exhibitor's Groom



Head: The coat on the head should flow right into the top of its ears. You should not be able to tell where the hair on the head ends and the ears begin. When exhibiting, the hair should be brushed back/upward. You may choose to use gel or hairspray to keep it in place.

Eyes & Nose: Do not cut any hair around the eyes or the bridge of the nose. As the hair grows, comb it down and let it grow long. The coat on the head should be brushed upward so that the eyes are seen when exhibiting the dog.

Ears: The hair on the ears is long and flows into the neck/upper chest hair. You should not be able to tell where the ears begin or end.

Chest: The chest hair should remain long. Muzzle hair under the chin and ear hair should flow smoothly into the chest hair.

Body: The hair on the body is left long. When the tail is curved over the back, it gives the appearance of a straight topline.

Tail: The hair on the tail should look uncut and long.



AVOID IN THE RING:

- Yellow markings on the coat
- Coat whitening shampoos
- Bolognese that are over groomed or have hair brushed straight.
- Artificial cosmetics
- Coats without ringlet (keeping in mind their ages, ie., puppies)
- Topknots, clips, rubber bands, etc.

COCCHETTI, F. (2020, APRIL 30).
BOLOGNESE: SESSIONE DIDATTICA ENCI
[POWERPOINT PRESENTATION]. ENTE
NAZIONALE DELLA CINOFILIA ITALIANA
(ENCI).

Advice from European Exhibitors



HUNKY-DORY KENNEL

Fredrika Rönquist, breeder & exhibitor at **Hunky-Dory Kennel** in Sweden, combs her dogs out before the bath. Her comb of choice is the HP Sprenger comb. She then allows the dog to dry naturally.



Fredrika's Favorite Supplies

She assisted us in compiling a list of recommended products available in the U.S. that she personally uses and recommends. For maintenance baths, she prefers Tauro Pro Line Intense Hydrate, and for show preparation, she uses other products from the Tauro Pro Line. She highly praises the Tauro slicker brush, describing it as exceptionally effective, anti-static, and gentle on the skin. Additionally, their combs are ideal for managing Bolognese coats.



- GENTLE SCRUB SHAMPOO
- INTENSE HYDRATE SHAMPOO
- ULTRA NATURAL CARE INTENSE HYDRATE MASK

- GENTLE SCRUB SHAMPOO
- KERATIN & GLOSS SHAMPOO
- KERATIN & GLOSS CONDITIONER



TAURO PRO LINE ULTRA NATURAL CARE DETANGLING LEAVE-IN CONDITIONER



TAURO PURE NATURE 2-N 1 TOOTHPASTE



TAURO PRO LINE ERGONOMIC NON-SLIP, WOODEN ROUND SLICKER



TAURO PRO LINE BRUSH, PEAR WOOD 27 MM TEETH



TAURO PRO LINE COMB

TAURO PRO LINE COMB METALLIC, WITH TAIL

Advice from European Exhibitors

Jessie Manders, a breeder and exhibitor from **Little White Wonder** in the Netherlands, utilizes the grooming tools displayed in the photo below. To simplify coat maintenance between shows, she recommends brushing and blow-drying, as this makes upkeep more manageable.



JACKIE "KRISTA"
LITTLE WHITE WONDER KENNEL

While air-drying produces the desirable exhibition "curls," it also increases the likelihood of tangles and knots. Therefore, Jessie advises brushing and blow-drying the coat for easier maintenance between shows.



MARTE TORRE DELLE PASSERE