

Purr-Fect Pointers

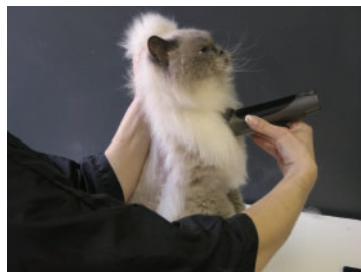


From The National Cat Groomers Institute

The Lion Cut

Step-By-Step Instructions

Step One



When doing a lion cut, typically a rough shave-down should be done before the bath and blow-dry. When doing so, do not worry about getting lines completely right or getting a super smooth finish before the bath. Focus on getting the bulk of the hair off as quickly as possible and getting the finish close to complete, but not all the way there. To begin, use a #10 blade and shave in reverse, against the growth of the hair. Start near the base of the tail on the cat's back and work forward toward the head.

Once the back is completed, begin with chest, working down to belly. First shave with the hair growth so that you can remove most of the hair and allow for better visibility. Then reverse the direction of the clippers and shave upward to get a smooth finish. Be careful to pull the skin taut so as not to nick the skin.

Step Three



The standard lion cut calls for a pom-pom tail. However the tail can also be left full if preferred. For a full tail, first take the clippers down toward the base to create a line. Then reverse the clippers to shave upward and provide a clean finish that will blend into the back. Work around to the underside of the tail, keeping the line even all the way around. For a pom-pom tail, hold about 2-3 inches of tail in a free hand and shave down the tail toward the pom, initially going with the growth of the hair and using the clipper blade to create a pom line similar to the line created for a full tail. Then reverse the clippers and shave upward toward the body, going down all sides of the tail until the finish is smooth and even.

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www.nationalcatgroomers.com**

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Step Four



To shave the front legs and armpits, the legs must be fully extended.. Be careful to pull the loose skin of the armpit taut to prevent nicks or cuts. Shave up and over the elbow approximately 1 inch. Using the line just created underneath the arm, work around toward the front and even up the work on all sides. Again, use the clippers to go with the growth initially to create a line. Then reverse the clippers, going against the growth to smooth out the finish and define the line.

Step Five



For the rear legs there are a variety of handling techniques that can be used depending up the age, health and temperament of a particular cat. Our DVDs are useful in showing handling techniques. When shaving the rear legs they will need to be extended. First shave downward to remove the bulk of the hair and gain greater visibility. Then shave upward, against the growth. The line should be taken down to just above the ankle joint.

Step Six



For the neckline pull the ruff forward and start at the back of the neck. Pull the skin back and taut and work forward with the clippers, against the growth. Imagine that the cat is wearing a collar. Use that natural collar line as the guide. Once the lines are even at the back of the neck, move around to the front of the cat's chin. Shave upward to that natural collar line. Then work around both sides of the neck to blend front and back lines together, keeping with the natural collar line.

Final



Give the cat a good degreasing bath and then thoroughly blow dry. Smooth out any rough spots until everything is well blended and very smooth.

The Cat With A Mat DVD And Other Instructional Videos Are Available For Purchase Online At www.nationalcatgroomers.com