

# Model Dogs



The model dog Phenomena is taking the grooming world by storm. Although model dogs have been around for many years, the new generation of model dogs with their synthetic coats are quickly gaining popularity with their introduction to industry grooming competitions, not only in Australia but worldwide. With origins in Asia these dogs are typically used as training aids in grooming schools, their coats maybe brushed, scissored and styled with regular grooming tools and with a little imagination you can even unleash your creativity by adding colours and decorations.

So if you've ever been tempted to enter a grooming competition but couldn't find the right dog now's your opportunity to get involved, get creative, and show off you're grooming skills. Whether it be in a grooming competition or you simply want to showcase your grooming skills for the world to see, a model dog is the perfect choice.



## Getting Started

Once you've purchased your model dog the first thing you need to do is brush out your wig before you fit it on the frame (trust me, these wigs are easier to brush out off the dog frame), I highly recommend you watch a video on how to fit the wig before you start, you will find a good example here -

<https://youtu.be/rydLo1XMFQg>

Alternatively search YouTube for model dog wigs and you should be able to find some examples.

Once the wig is brushed out, you can fit the wig on the dog and add the eyes, nose & tail.



## Styling your Model

Now you're ready to begin styling. You will probably want to Style your dog in a traditional poodle trim, teddy bear trim or an Asian Fusion pet trim, but once you become more familiar with these model dogs you may want to get more creative. You can remove ears and reattach them in a different position (I use hot glue to do this), this will enable you to style your dog into a different breed, such as a terrier. I've even been known to shorten tails and legs, the only limitation is your imagination!

You can safely use regular, everyday grooming tools on these dogs!

## Getting Creative

It's a lot of fun to get creative with these little dogs, with no worry of repercussions from well meaning dog lovers who may suggest that colouring is cruel or embarrassing to a dog (I must stress this is not an opinion that I hold, I believe a friendly outgoing dog loves the attention that a bit of creativity will no doubt bring)

## Colour

One of my favourite ways to add colour is with hair chalk, simply section off pieces of hair, rub colour directly onto the section of hair with your fingers or a small brush, comb, spray with hairspray to set the colour then scissor into your required shape .. a petal for a flower for example.

Other options for adding a touch of colour are blow pens, colour paste, dyes or airbrush.



## Accessories

Get creative by adding accessories, bling, feathers, flowers etc on this dog I used chalk to add colour and create the flowers as described above then hot glued embellishments onto my model to finish the design.



A collar or necklace will always compliment a creative design



### Creating curls

Unfortunately because this is a synthetic coat you cannot use curling irons or you will simply melt the coat but you can manipulate the coat by wrapping a length of hair around an object of your choosing ... a pen or straw for example! Spray with hairspray then carefully remove the pen or straw and tease the curl back into shape and spray again with hairspray.



Remember you are only limited by your imagination so have fun, get practicing and I look forward to seeing your model dogs on social media and or in future grooming competitions.