



The inside track on today's grooming news

## Grooming Your Business

Grooming Your Business this issue will feature the newly introduced rakes and combs from Oster® Professional Products Animal Division. Made of stainless steel, with a sleek design, these tools are easy to keep clean and feel great in your hands. They are available as follows:

*10 Teeth Coarse Narrow Head—*

For small medium breeds with a thick undercoat.

*18 Teeth Medium—*

For breeds with minimum undercoat

*18 Teeth Coarse Wide Head—*

For large breeds with a thick coat.



Applications for these new tools include:

*Styling heavy, double coated dogs—*After the long winter months, dogs tend to be weighed down with dead undercoat. Remove bulk amounts of dead coat by running the rake over the coat with long strokes. To start, choose the rake with the widest spaces between the teeth. Continue using the rake with long strokes until it glides through easily or until you have achieved the desired look. Use rakes before, during and after bathing on breeds such as huskies, shepherds and collies.

*Assist with carding—* when clipping before raking or carding, the coat is cut extremely close to the skin reducing the hair's normal weight and ability to shed naturally. Raking before clipping removes dead coat from the common pore opening. The simple process promotes a healthier coat and maintains the natural shedding process. The frequency of how often you should rake depends on the dog itself. The rake actually cuts a small amount of coat. Therefore, when working with coats that are hand stripped, rakes should only be used to finish off rough edges. Vary your raking frequency depending on the breed of dogs and desired results.

*Trimming drop and double coated breeds—*Most drop and double coated breeds just need a little definition around the shoulders and hips. The new grooming rakes can achieve this in minutes. Simply rake over the coat with long strokes a few times and you will see a tailored, professional result.



### Choosing the Right Dog Grooming Combs

Dog grooming combs are a practical, healthy combination with brushes. As with most grooming tools, there are a myriad of combs on the market, each designed to create a different result. Choosing the right dog grooming comb from the assortment can be daunting, but it will definitely save a groomer time, energy and frustration.

Some specific examples include:

*Prepping—*combs with longer teeth and wider spacing loosen and remove small amounts of dead hair. A finer, shorter tooth comb

Removes the dead hair left behind the wider comb. These can be used on double coated dogs before, during and after a bath, and on fluffy coated dogs after they've been dried and brushed with a slicker brush.

*Drying—*Before and during a bath, use a long tooth/wide space comb first on double coated dogs and follow with a fine, short tooth comb to remove more of the dead hair. This will decrease the drying time and less hair blowing onto the table and floor means shorter clean up time resulting in a better finish faster.

*Scissoring—*When scissoring, use a size appropriate comb relative to the length of the dog's coat. The longer the coat the longer the teeth on the comb. The shorter the coat the shorter the teeth on the comb. This will speed up the process by lifting the coat evenly. Using the wrong size comb can plain hair in an unnatural position before scissoring, resulting in an unnatural fall line and a rough dull finish.

Available in following sizes:

7" Grooming Comb—for smaller breeds with short to medium coats.

10" Grooming/Finishing Comb—for breeds with heavy, long or fluffy coats.

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