

Wickets By Mel

Triumph Showdog Solutions

Correcting Hound ears or low ears for Shelties and Collies

Hound (drooping) ears are the hardest ear problem to fix. Typically, the ear set can be corrected only about 1/3 of the time. The other 2/3 will always have droopy ears.

To attempt fixing hound ears, you need to use moleskin and start ‘training’ the ears immediately. Start when the dog is young, the longer you wait the more the muscles in the back on the ear stretch, making the problem worse. The fix for hound ears is not fast; it may take 6 months to 2 years. To help train the ears, trim most of the hair from the back of the ear. It helps to remove the weight from this hair, and the hair grows back very quickly.

You will need the following items, and you're ready to go to work

- a) A quality Moleskin (do not use Dr Sholl's products – they are not firm enough and the adhesive poor).
- b) Doc Brannens Adhesive spray or one of our cements and one of our glues
- c) One of our adhesive removers (Zo-Eeze, UniSolve, or Detachol)
- d) Thinning scissors and a soft Slicker brush.

Directions

- 1) After removing most of the hair from the back side of the ear, except for the hair on the inside edge, clean the ear of all glues and adhesive residue. Wash the inside of the ear with a little soapy water and wait about 20-30 minutes for the ear to dry (nothing will stick well to a wet or cold ear).
- 2) Cut 2 pieces of moleskin in the shape of a V or U for the ear tips. Cut 4 squares for the lower part of the ear. Remove the paper and glue the sticky side of one of the moleskins to the felt side of the other piece of moleskin. Repeat with the other 2 pieces of moleskin to make two double thick moleskin squares. Then trim two of the corners on each to round them. These pieces will be put in the bottom of each ear to support and hold the ear UP. Once the glue is dry, remove the adhesive from the back of each piece, spray or wipe the sticky side with the adhesive, and place in the lower part inside each ear. Fold the ear back so the ear is flat when placing the moleskin in place, press in the center first to ensure that position (center) and work to the outward edges.
- 3) Remove the paper from the two moleskin tip places, add adhesive to the sticky side,, and place the tip piece into the upper part of the ear so that the center of the moleskin is 3/16 above the lower tape. Do not butt the moleskin pieces up to each other.
- 4) Place glue on the moleskin tip pieces and tip the ears to stick the tip moleskin to the lower moleskin (felt to felt). Press and hold for a minute until the glue is dry.
- 5) Pull the ears together on top of the head by gluing the hair on the **back** inside edge of the ears together. Work from the rear; this will also help to pull the ears up. This is the hair on the **inside edge (not the hair on the top)** of the ear that **we did not cut off when trimming the excess hair**. Glue the two edges together from ¼ inch above the top of the head, up to the fold, just along the edge of both ears and hold together for a minute until the glue is dry. Either Jiffy Sew or Speed Sew can be used. Alternatively, you can place yarn between the two pieces of moleskin that are glued together for the lower part of the ear (see the Alternative Japanese tape method page).

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