

**Wickets By Mel**  
**Triumph Showdog Solutions**

**LOADING EARS WITH TUNGSTEN**

Loading ears on a sheltie or collie is really very easy and not difficult, It is NOT A CURE for bad ears, and NOT A CURE for training ears, it is only a temp fix for a few days when showing or when taking pictures.

ITEMS NEEDED TO LOAD EARS

- TUNGSTEN POWDER- EXTRA FINE (do not use lead products, they are all toxic)
- I-O paste (IODEX PASTE) for K 9 use only (paraffin and iodine, you can't feel it because of the paraffin)
- SLICKER BRUSH, (soft and small)
- MED SIZE TOWEL (with a 2 inch cut in it, to go over the head and ruff)
- SMALL COMB ( fine tooth)
- TOOTH PICKS (cut of the pointed ends.)
- BABY TOOTHBRUSH

You can put the tungsten on the tooth brush and put onto the ear - you will use less by using the tooth brush and it get's the tungsten down on the skin of the ear.

With the dog on the table, brush the hair on the ears so that that the ears are show ring ready. Look at the ears, if they just need to come down evenly then use the following procedure, If you have an ear that is tuliped, you will need to expand the procedure a little (I will explain at the end).

Place the slit in the towel over the ear you are going to do first, covering the eyes (you do not want to get any tungsten in the eyes or on the coat. It will need to be washed out with soap and water if you do.)

Make an opening in the towel so the dog can see out. Spray the ear with a fine spray water, take the tip of the ear about ¼ inch from the tip and with your slicker brush or comb, make v in the hair going from side to side and down to the skin. Put a tooth pick into the Iodex, roll it and then place it across the skin and roll the tooth pick onto the V and down onto the skin.

Sprinkle a little tungsten all the way across the line, and then push the tungsten all the way down onto the skin with the baby toothbrush. Use your slicker brush to brush the hair into it's normal position and look to see if you have put enough or too much tungsten on the line. If you have put on too much, slicker the ear and some of the tungsten will come off. If you do not have enough tungsten in the ear, redo the same ear going a little above the line you just did with a second line. If the ear tip is fine with the second line, repeat as needed with the other ear.

Phone eves: (215)-679-9019

See our web site for more information

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At the end if one of the ears looks lower than the other, use the slicker brush on the tip to brush out some of the tungsten until they are even.

After a while you will get the hang of doing ears - it is not difficult. You will also get used to how much tungsten to put on the ear.

The most common question I am asked when loading ears is "How much do I use?" Try it at home several days before a show to get test it out - each ear or set of ears is different.

The other areas to load ears on Collies and Shelties are along the front edge of the ear, and on the under side of the ear close to the outer edge;, there need to be a lot of hair for this procedure. Don't try this until you get good at doing the top of the ears.

If the ear has a tulip in it (or a curl as some call it - not broken and pulling the inside of the ear up.), use this method. On the inside edge, do a half line at the bottom of the curl or aprox ½ way down the ear. This will help to bring the tip a little closer to the center line or where the tip would be if it was not tuliped and broken on that top edge of the ear. This need to be done first to bring the inside edge down, so that both ears are level when you start doing the tips,

Basic starting procedure - it is possible after doing this procedure you may not need any tungsten on the tip or top. Every time you do a line, look at it. This may take you a while to get the hang; safer and less frustrating.

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