

How to Paint Long Fur | Dog Edition



Type: Time-Lapse

Time: 30-Min

Medium: Acrylic

Section #1: Pause and play when needed to not miss a step. Roughly sketch dog using graphite pencil.

1. The more detail in the painting, the more detail you will need in the sketch.
2. **Draw individual strands** of hair as best you can, that way you're not guessing when it's time to paint.
3. Use shading, scribbles, whatever will make it easier for you to distinguish the hair from the different parts of the dog.

Section Notes: Don't rush the sketch. It will make for a great painting when you have a great sketch.

Section #2: Determine your dark, medium, and light tones.

1. Have **multiple reference photos**. 1-3 at least.
2. Determine which colors make up the dark, medium, and light tones.
3. Make a list if you need to for when it's time to mix colors.

Section Notes: This step comes with practice. And don't worry, if you miss some colors you can always paint them overtop later.

Section #3: Mix and apply dark tones first.



1. **Determine light source.**
2. Mix up the dark tone colors and apply to areas getting the **least amount of light** exposure.
3. Use a **Flat Brush** to create curvy and/or straight lines around the individual hairs.
4. Having **multiple dark tones** is normal.
5. Don't be afraid to experiment with dark colors that you may not see in your reference photo.
6. Keep dark tones lighter in areas getting more sunlight.

Section Notes: PAINT THE BACKGROUND FIRST. With long haired dogs it's best to do the background first. Expect this step to take the longest, especially for bigger, hairier dogs. Your patience will pay off, promise.

Section #4: Mix and apply medium tones.

1. Medium tones are the **in-between colors**. Not the darkest, but not the lightest colors in your reference photo.
2. You can have **multiple light and dark medium tones** just like you can have multiple dark and light dark tones.
3. Apply these colors to the **width of the hairs** using the same flat brush.
4. It's alright to **alternate between medium and dark tones** in this step.
5. Collars, bells, ribbons, anything covering hair will be darkest underneath.

Section Notes: The main focus in this step is painting all the hairs, not applying major detail yet.

Section #5: Mix and apply the lightest tones.



1. Areas receiving the **most light exposure** will have the lighter tones.
2. When painting light tones you will often be mixing in colors like **yellow, white, tan**, and other lighter colors.
3. Use your **detail brush** to add highlights and/or random hairs.

Section Notes: Don't forget to wash brush out often to keep brush thin. Otherwise, paint will dry and clump onto bristles, making hair strands much thicker than you want them.

Section #6: Add final touches.

1. In this step, you will be **repeating all the previous steps**. Adding dark tones, touching up medium tones, applying more individual hairs, etc.
2. Add **additional light hairs overtop dark areas** to make dog portrait more life like.

Section Notes: Don't overdo it. Sometimes spending too much time on a painting can make it worse.

Congratulations! You are FINISHED.

Need Help?

If you would like feedback, advice, and/or would like to share your work with me, go right ahead! My email is linked below.

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Materials List: The materials you use will likely be different than the materials I used for this tutorial. The following materials are what I used to paint Lulu the Lhasa Apso.

A. Acrylic Paint

- a. Raw Sienna
- b. Burnt Sienna
- c. Naples Yellow
- d. Yellow
- e. Portrait Pink
- f. Titanium White
- g. Mars Black
- h. Sky Blue
- i. Virilian Orange
- j. Cadmium Yellow Hue

B. Paint Brushes

- a. Medium flat brush - painting fur
- b. Small detail round brush - tiny detail work
- c. Large flat brush - background

C. Canvas

- a. Dimensions: 16" x 20" cotton canvas

D. Water

- a. Plastic cup or glass jar of water

E. Paint Pallet

- a. Glass paint palette

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F. Paint Cloth

- a. Paper towel or old cloth



G. Pallet Knife (optional)

- a. Brushes work fine, but pallet knife is great for mixing paint.