



Photo courtesy The Country Today

Most any long-haired breed of dog is a good source of dog wool, says Anne Holopainen.

## MAKES BEAUTIFUL SWEATERS

# She Spins Dog Wool

By Lois Reis

If you thought wool comes solely from sheep, you're in for a pleasant surprise.

Meet Anne Holopainen, of Withee, Wis., who specializes in the unusual craft of carding and hand spinning dog hair. Yes, DOG, as in "bow wow!"

For dyed-in-the-wool (pardon the pun) dog-lovers like herself, creating and wearing socks, scarves, hats, sweaters and other clothing articles from a favorite canine pet's fur is a very special and harmless way to foster a kinship, says Anne.

Dog hair wool spinning began in Siberia (where dogs are prized possessions) and was done years ago in Finland, according to Anne, who is of Finnish descent. In Finland, dog hair was added to sheep wool as it was spun — but the Finnish women were reluctant to admit it.

Today, both in the United States and in Finland, people are more open minded and take better care of their pet dogs. As a result, Anne's craft is less controversial than it used to be, she notes.

She especially likes the unique quality of her craft.

"Dog hair is a novelty. A lot of people don't do it," she explains. "Sheep is popular. You can get (wool) already dyed and carded (and ready to spin)."

Almost any long-haired dog breed

is a good candidate for dog hair spinning, she said. Artic dogs such as Samoyeds and Siberian huskies make especially desirable dog wool, but Anne has also spun hair from Pomeranian and English shepherd dogs.

The hair is collected by combing — not clipping — the dog. Clipped hair is prickly.

The hair can be separated by color (black, white and gray) or the colors can be spun together. Siberian husky hair creates a "heather" color for which Anne has a special fondness.

Dog hair yarn dyes well, but she prefers natural colors for her projects, she says.

Next, tufts of dog hair are placed on a wooden paddle and combed so that the strands run in one direction. Combing is accomplished by stroking two paddles together. Each contains velvet-like material and tiny metal spikes.

The combed hair is carefully removed in one piece and worked into a strand on the spinning wheel.

Anne learned her craft from a Finnish aunt who used a large spinning wheel from her homeland. She prefers the large, easier treading Finnish spinning wheel.

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Illustrations courtesy Poultry Tribune

Mottled "Houdans" are noted for their feathered bonnet.

## Hatchery Specializes In Exotic Chickens

If you (or your children) have been wanting some exotic chickens to adorn your farmstead, a hatchery in Missouri that specializes in rare and exotic breeds can supply you with some real attention-getters.

Clinton Hatchery, located in Clinton, hatches and ships out a million chicks a year, and one-fourth of them are rare, exotic, and bantam breeds. The birds are shipped by air to customers located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Delivery takes just 24 hours or less to most places, and 100% survival is guaranteed.

Customers must order at least 20 chicks because it takes that many to supply enough body heat while in transit, but they can mix any number of breeds to make a total of 20 birds. All exotics and bantams are sold straight run (not separated into pullets and cockerels). Hatching is done from mid-February to mid-October.

The hatchery has some 20 rare breeds for sale that include the following:

- **Araucanas** — noted for laying eggs in a range of colors from pink or green to olive or blue. The birds, originally from Chili, come in white, black, buff, blue and red.
- **Yokohamas** — an ancient silver and black Japanese breed noted for tails that have been known to grow 20 ft. long.
- **Black Langshans** — black with a large tail and feathered legs. Originally from China, they weigh up to 10 lbs. and lay dark brown eggs.
- **Houdans** — an old French breed noted for its feathered bonnet. Bred

for meat and eggs for the markets of Paris, they're white skinned and lay white shelled eggs.

• **Andalusians** — blue colored birds developed in Spain. They're of the highest egg producers among the rare breeds.

• **Dominiques** — once America's most popular breed, they're barred gray and white and are very rare.

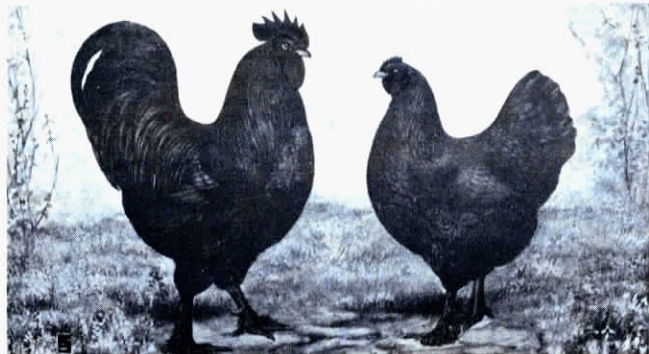
The price on exotics is \$1.00 to \$1.50 each, depending on breed and quantity ordered. The hatchery also sells a rare breed assortment of 25 for \$17, a "booted" special of 25 for \$24, and a "top hat" special of crested breeds (25 for \$19). Air postage is additional.

Bantam breeds available include Silkies, Dominiques, Cochins, Brahas, Orpingtons and Rhode Island Reds. Prices range from \$1.50 to over \$2.

The hatchery also sells the books "Chickens in Your Backyard" (\$6.75) and "The Family Poultry Flock" (\$8.25).

"Clinton was once the chick capital of the nation with 14 hatcheries," says Sara Williams, Clinton Hatchery office manager. "With the end of rail service, all but Clinton Hatchery went out of business. It would be difficult to stay in business today without air service. Newly hatched chicks can live for 72 hours, and we have made shipments that arrived in Alaska in 26 hours."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clinton Hatchery, Inc., Box 548, Clinton, Mo. 64735 (ph 816 885-8500).



"Black Langshans", originally from China, weigh up to 10 lbs.