

## Why do we groom our pets?

We groom our pets to keep them healthy, happy and disease free members of our family. Pet dogs are not like wild dogs. They have been altered by selective breeding and their coats are unlike anything found in the wild. With these designer coats comes the burden of coat care and as guardians of these domestic breeds, it is up to us to make sure that these coats are kept in the best condition possible.

Dogs are living, breathing creatures with feelings and souls. They do not speak our language and do not know how to speak up for themselves. They put their trust in us as their family members to take good care of them. Grooming your pet is just one way of caring for these wonderful creatures.

Regular and proper grooming can be the difference between a good coat and an excellent coat. Pawsh Styling would be more than happy to help you achieve this, especially through the shedding process. Even if your dog is not in need of a complete grooming, a thorough bath and brush out can help speed the process along. Dead fur next to the skin is irritating and can lead to an itch/scratch cycle that can damage the skin and cause further problems.

For some breeds, daily brushing is recommended. Long haired breeds and double coated breeds tangle and matt more than a slick coated dog. Because of this, they need to have their coats properly cared for; especially if you want to keep the length the breed is known for.

Matted fur cuts off air circulation to the skin and can cause lesions which attract flies and maggots. A matted coat causes other problems for your dog as well. It's terribly uncomfortable because as the hair matts get tighter and tighter, it pulls on the surrounding skin, tightening and cracking it, leaving it open to infection and insects. A matted dog that gets wet, outside in the rain for instance, may end up molding before matts are finally dry, or may get a fungus infection on its skin. These are painful for your dog and uncomfortable for your wallet when you have to take him/her to your veterinarian for treatment.

Fully de-matting a dog is not always pleasant for your dog or the groomer. To de-matt a dog, a groomer has to pick apart the matts with a comb or special tool, and this sometimes necessitates pulling the hair. Dogs can be uncooperative and do not tolerate this pulling very well as it can be stressful and painful for them. Stressed dogs may bite, and this presents a danger to your groomer. We may have to muzzle your dog for safety, and this unfortunately can increase the dogs stress.

De-matting is also expensive for the owner. Since it requires so much time, any FULL coat de-matting is charged for separately from regular grooming services at \$40.00 per hour. Please refer to Matted dog policy for further details.

If your dog is matted when you arrive for an appointment, we will be happy to explain options other than full coat de-matting. Often the best solution for the dog is to simply clip the coat underneath the matts to gently remove them. If you wish to regrow the coat after clipping, we can suggest ways that you can prevent future matting.

It's best to prevent matting in the first place and that's easy to do with regular brushing. I will be glad to recommend a schedule for you and suggest appropriate grooming tools. If you are not able to keep up with the recommended brushing, there are several other options: Many breeds can be trimmed into a utility/strip cut that is shorter than the usual length, but still looks nice and is easier to care for between professional grooming. You'll still need to brush your dog, but it will generally be easier for you, and less time consuming. You can make appointments to bring your dog in more frequently for professional grooming. Our shop offers special discounts for owners who bring their dogs in on a regular schedule. Ask me about those special rates. Your dog may not always need a bath and full groom. By bringing him/her in for a regular brush out only between grooming, you'll avoid more costly dematting and more importantly you'll avoid the unnecessary stress and health problems for your dog.

Remember, Pawsh Styling is here to help you in every aspect of your pets life. We would be pleased to arrange a bathing/grooming schedule for you and your dog in an effort to keep your costs down and your pet looking forward to a happy grooming experience.

Emily Gossman  
Pawsh Styling