

Shaving & De-Matting

Matted hair can cause many issues with your pets' coat and skin. Over time, mats may be very close to the skin and, as a result, they can be very difficult to remove and may require the pet to be shaved. Removing a heavily matted coat can cause irritation or reveal an existing issue prior to the grooming process. To make sure the skin recovers and does not get worse after grooming, you need to understand the causes and proper aftercare.

Not only are mats uncomfortable, heavy matting can also trap moisture, feces, and urine near the pet's skin. This may cause the skin to become inflamed or infected.

After removing mats, you may notice your pet chewing, rubbing, scratching, or licking at their skin. Try not to let them rub on furniture or carpet, lick or scratch excessively as this may cause the irritation to their skin to get worse. Their skin feels different with the mats gone which may make them want to scratch.

If redness or skin irritation does occur, call your vet for instructions as soon as possible!

Ear Hematomas

Heavy mats on a dog's ears can cause discomfort. If a pet is shaking or scratching their ears excessively, there is a risk of a hematoma forming.

An ear hematoma is a pocket of blood that has accumulated on the ear flap, usually as a result of shaking the head, excessive scratching, etc. The dog's ears are initially heavy with matted hair. In some cases, blood flow is restricted by the tightness of the mat. When these mats are removed their ears may suddenly feel tingly from the rush of restricted blood flowing back to the surface. They then shake their head, which causes the soft ear leather to knock against the dog's head. Consistent scratching or head shaking may cause the ear to swell. In some cases the shaking can cause blood vessels to rupture and the ears to bleed. Keep in mind, heavy matting can also cause the ear canals to become inflamed and/or infected.

We use happy hoodies in the salon and let the ears dry naturally to help prevent hematomas from happening. We may send your dog home with a hoodie or you can make one at home yourself with a sock.

Veterinary advice at the owner's expense should be sought if complications arise from having a matted and/or neglected coat removed.