

POST MATTED SHAVE-DOWN CARE SHEET

PET ITCHING/BITING AT THEMSELVES OR LICKING

If your pet is itchy, this can be due the fact they haven't felt airflow on their skin for quite some time and/or the increase in blood flow causing a tingling sensation. If your pet is itchy, it is important to **not** allow them to itch. It is your job to manage their itching to prevent self-injury. There are lots of options to try and help your pet.

- Put a cotton shirt on them
- Give them CBD or something to help calm them down and go to sleep.
- Apply an anti itch spray to help topically relieve the itching.
- Apply holistic topical solutions like aloe vera, or coconut oil.
- Put a cone on them if they are licking.
- Keep them supervised and tell them to stop.

Please consult with a veterinarian if you are having a hard time managing your dog's itching.

INCREASED SENSITIVITY- PET ACTING SCARED OF EVERYTHING OR EMBARRASSED

If your pet is fearful or shy, it is important to show them unconditional love! Some dogs are extra sensitive. Please don't stop petting them or disassociate because their hair cut is shorter than you want. The only thing that changed was their coat length. So to them, if you think they're ugly and don't treat them the same way then there is something to be embarrassed about, and if your pet is ever shaved again they may act even worse or be scared of getting groomed because their owner won't love them anymore until the coat grows back. Do not fuel shyness by using comforting tones and babying them. Either act as if nothing happened, and move on and put the shave down behind you or even better over compensate and act as if the haircut was the best thing on earth. (If you over compensate this may make the next trip to the groomers more exciting for them as they get so much extra love and excitement from their owners when they are done being groomed.)

On top of emotional sensitivity, their actual nerve endings are being reintroduced to everything, this could be the sun, heat or coldness, or even the way textures of surfaces feel like on the skin like carpet or upholstery in your household. This could be a lot to take in and process. Be patient and encouraging to them.

- A surface that may have been favorable before may be too much for your pup's newly sensitive skin. Try giving them a soft blanket or cover them with a cotton shirt.

PET SHAKING HEAD/EARS SWELLING OR BLEEDING

If your pet is shaking their head/ears. Hematomas are unpreventable if your pet was matted around the ears. It may not happen, or it may, there's no controlling it. A big factor is the color of the dog, the lighter color the dog, typically the more sensitive/thin their skin may be. So a white dog is much more susceptible to getting hematomas when removing mats than a black dog would be. If you leave it "untreated" it may take a long time for the dog to stop constantly making it "reopen" and keep bleeding or to swell up at the tips of the ears.

- When hematomas occur you should wrap the ears so they can't flap around. You can cut a sock so there's a hole on each side and put it around their whole head with the ears tucked under the sock
- . -If the dog is larger you may need to get more creative and find something bigger you can secure around their head to keep their ears tucked under.

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If proper precautions are taken as soon as you go home a call to the vet should not be necessary unless the dog was severely matted. Sometimes it may be necessary to seek out veterinarian advice for hematomas, where the vet can give the dog a mild sedative to get them to calm down enough where they just sleep it off so the blood can clot, and sometimes something for the swelling but this is typically in very severe matting cases.

THE HAIR IS GROWING BACK, NOW WHAT?

As soon as the hair is more than a finger nail width long you should start practicing proper maintenance on the coat. The shorter the coat is while you start brushing, the less time it will take per session to brush out the coat and then your dog can gradually get used to being brushed. The frequency of brushing is very dependent on your lifestyle, the dog's coat, the dog's lifestyle and how good your dog is at being brushed. As puppies before they even leave the breeders they should be getting desensitized to all grooming tools.

Some pet owners that bring their dogs in every 6 weeks and get a "short but not shaved" haircut which would land between a #7 and a #4 blades (leaves the coat between 3.2mm and 9.5mm long) depending on your perspective of short. There isn't a huge visual difference between these lengths depending on the way the coat lays and how thick it is. These pet owners understand that they can't keep up with the brushing their dog takes and prefer a maintenance free haircut. This may be for you if you find yourself seeking the long hair but falling short on the maintenance required.

There are also pet owners that love the longer haired look but know they can't maintain it so they bring their dogs to the groomers very frequently. Depending on many factors these owners sometimes bring them in as frequently as every 2 weeks. If your dog is a poodle or poodle mix and is always in the pool swimming, you can't expect them to have 3" of hair without them also needing a full professional groom once a week. Keep in mind that the grooming fees for a poodle or poodle mix that gets a #4 haircuts all over every 6 weeks is going to be considerably cheaper than a poodle that has over an inch of coat, which would take more than twice as long from start to finish per grooming session. Set realistic expectations on yourself, and on your groomer, with the money you're willing to spend and your time you are willing to spend on at home maintenance. Don't forget to factor in your dog's preferences as well. If you haven't desensitized them to brushing properly, and don't have the time and patience it would take to get them to be okay with coat maintenance, you shouldn't force them into brushing sessions and have to hold them down, this is never okay. If your dog is scared of the brush don't expect your groomer to be able to brush them either.

If you haven't set up your next appointment yet with your groomer before you left the shave down appointment. Now is the time to call and get in, and truly establish that relationship with your groomer. Your dog needs to be on a regular bathing schedule, even if you want the hair to grow out long again. Proper bathing with a thorough blow dry and brushing is important for overall wellbeing of your pet and their skin. You should not wait any longer than 6-8 weeks in between grooming sessions even if you get a super tight shave every appointment. Life gets busy so sometimes you may skip brushing days. If matting is caught at the early stages, and you have your dog used to the grooming process, your groomer can use a good conditioner, and blow the forming knots away from the skin and then brush the rest out once it's dry.