

# Pooch & Paws

## De Matting Policy



Following consultation on arrival to the studio, if your dog is matted and requires a clip down/ shave down a consent form will be required to be signed.

I will do my best to remove matting and save as much of the coat as possible. However, I will only attempt to de-mat minimal to prevent stress or pain to the dog. I will assess the dog upon arrival and if it is determined that there is too much matting then a clip short will be required. Clipping short requires additional time and harder use on equipment and may result in additional costs which will also be discussed at the time of consultation.

**Under the Animal Welfare Act 2013**, it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal which includes prolonged de-matting. When a dogs coat becomes matted it can cause severe discomfort as the matts pull tightly on the dogs skin and underlying health conditions may not be visible. When a matted coat is clipped short it can occasionally reveal sore, irritated and reddened skin which is due to the skin not being able to breath and a lack of air circulation.

Matting is very painful for your dog. Matting pulls the skin really tight restricting the blood flow to the skin which can have detrimental side effects. Matting can hide; unwanted parasites, trapped faeces & debris, embedded thorns & grass seeds, all of which may lead to skin infections.

After matting is removed a pins and needles sensation (blood rushing back to the skin) is felt by the dog often causing bruising to the skin. This feeling can cause your dog to act a little funny - dragging bottom, licking excessively, scratching and even hiding away in some cases. This sensation should go away with time and we advise to monitor your dogs behaviour during this time.

Dogs ears have delicate blood vessels which can be restricted and cause the skin to become thinner with excessive matting. When matting is removed with the clippers this can sometimes release the pressure and can cause a blood rush to the tips of the ears and may tear or bleed. It may not happen straight away but the ears will feel different to a dog after clip down and if the dog shakes their head excessively this can start the bleeding also. The dog shaking the head one time can cause this also.

We love our dogs and always want them to feel comfortable and happy. Severe matting needs to be removed with clipper blades and scissors having to go extremely close to the skin. We make sure to take the time to do this as carefully as possible. Your dog's behaviour may delay the process. Please understand that it is quite a stressful situation to be in for the groomer and dog and adequate time needs to be allocated. Nicks and scratches to the skin can happen depending on the severity of the matting as the blades must go very close to the skin, however we take this process very seriously and will do everything in our power to try to prevent this from happening.

In some cases if I feel it is not safe to groom your dog due to the severity of the matting or compacted undercoat, I will advise to go to your Vet.

Your dog will be much happier and comfortable when clipped and no matting. Your dogs immediate comfort is more important to me than vanity and remember hair grows back.