



Did You Know: Hand Stripping & Carding maintains color and texture

-All Medium coats and some Short coats require Carding/Raking (undercoat/dead hair removal) and in some cases Hand Stripping (top coat/frizzy dead coat removal)

-Hand stripping does not hurt as you are only pulling dead hair and it releases easily

-Carding removes the dead undercoat like a rake. The choice between a carding tool or a rake depends on the type of coat. Some coats require both such as a the Spaniel Families.

-Hand Stripping preserves the coat texture and color of your pets hair. Once shaved or cut, the texture will turn soft and the color will turn a dull or lighter shade.

-If skin becomes damaged such as from an injury or a shot, the coat will reset to its original color and texture and then turn from there. This is why sometimes your pets have spots that look like their puppy color and texture.

-If you shave a medium coat type like a Terrier or Spaniel, you can sometimes get acne/bumps due to the hair follicle becoming damaged/clogged. This can usually be rectified by Carding and cutting them a longer length but coat rehabilitation can be difficult.

-We offer hand stripping services and include carding and hand stripping in our deshed packages to make sure your pet has the healthiest coat they can have.



BRUSHING YOUR PET

Did You Know: Brushing every day creates a tangle free coat



-The best tools for long coats are a slicker brush, a pin brush for silky coats, and a comb.

-Your brush and comb are best friends. You never want to have one without the other. Your brush breaks up the coat and your comb gets all the way down to the skin and checks for any tangles or mats you missed. If you only use a brush, you won't reach the skin and will miss some mats and tangles. If you only use your comb, you can cause your pet pain by catching and pulling the hair that hasn't been broken up. Always use both when brushing out your pet. Once brushed through, if your comb finds a tangle, go back to your brush to break it up, then recheck with your comb.

-You want to line brush your pet to make sure you are reaching all the way down to the skin. You want to lift the hair up with one hand to expose the skin and brush in a downward motion with your brush in the other hand. If you can not see the skin while brushing then you want to change your technique or your pet may be matted already. Make sure to follow with your comb. The angle you hold your comb matters and if you are holding it at the wrong angle, you are missing the skin and missing tangles. See your groomer for hands on lessons on how to brush and comb your pet.

-You want to train your pet to love/tolerate the brush and the comb. You want to make sure your pet is happy, comfortable, and relaxed when your doing this. Start the training as early as you can. Training them to be brushed and combed teaches them not only how to be handled all over, but to have things touching them all over their body as well. This training helps for future grooming when we use other things such as clippers.

-You want to use positive reinforcement when training. Have your pet in a comfortable and relaxed position and begin by touching with your hands first. If they remain comfortable and relaxed, reward them with a treat. Remember, you want the touching to come first, not the the treat. Touching first, then treat. Once they stay relaxed and comfortable with your hands, then you can introduce the brush. Once they become relaxed with the brush, then you can introduce the comb. See our **Recommended Book List** slide for more on training your pet.



Did You Know:

Dematting Can Create Damaged Hair

- When your pet is dematted (brushing out of tangles), the hair can be damaged due to the pulling/friction of the brush on the tangled hair, creating damaged hair and split ends. Therefore brushing out tangles on your pet can create a cycle of matting that is hard to keep brushed out. You will ideally brush daily before severe tangles can start. This is why in some cases it is healthier for the hair to start over with a shave if very severe.
- Dematting can cause pain to your pet if not done properly, if they are too matted, or if the wrong tool is used. This can create a fear of the brush and/or comb as well. That is why it is important that if you are unsure if there is matting, how bad it is, or your unsure of which tools to use, you come get their coat and your tools assessed. We can let you know what to do for their coat and what some different options are. We love helping!
- We prefer not to shave to the skin, it is ideal for pets to be left with some hair for protection. It is possible to demat your pet without any pain at the groomers but not in every case. It depends on how severe the matting is and how much of the body is matted. We are only allotted so much time with your pet in one appointment session so in some cases the mats are severe enough or spread all over the body enough to where we do not have the time to do it safely and painlessly. In that case we would have to shave your pet. If you do not want your pet shaved, another option is to take your pet home and demat them over a course of days or weeks to do it safely and painlessly. Sometimes this is a good option depending on the coat because even if you do not get the mats out, you can get them far enough away from the skin for us to use a longer blade or guard so that they are not shaved to the skin.
- The dematting must be done with care, we do not want to create a fear of the brush and comb. If your pet exhibits fear or pain, it is best to start over with a shave down. We recommend daily brushing, a shorter haircut and/or appointments every 4 weeks if your pet seems to mat quickly.
- -Dematting can also be stressful for your pet. We can explain to our children that if they are still and we go slowly then it will not hurt, but we can not explain this to our fur clients. If they become uncomfortable and/or wiggly, we have to stop what we are doing to maintain their safety and trust in us.
- We can not wash pets that are matted as washing them makes the tangles and matting worse and tighter as well as creating possible skin problems. Mats do not fully dry out when tight and can cause hot spots and other things on the skin when left damp.
- We offer solutions such as brushing, spot shaving/thinning out of matted areas (if safe) as well as a process called “wet shaving”. Instead of shaving to the skin, we can wet shave to leave a smidge more hair. This is still short but better than skin showing. See your groomer for further details.
- All of these processes of dematting cost extra and range in the amount charged. It depends on how long it takes us to get through the matting/tangles so brushing at home can save you some money. Our pricing is based in part on a well maintained, tangle free coat so anything that takes us extra time has an extra charge like a hair dresser. If we went to our hair dresser with tangles, it would take them extra time so they will charge extra for brushing out your hair or ask you to go home and reschedule once tangle free. See our slide on **Brushing** for more info on how to keep your pet tangle free.

Did you know: We offer customizable sprays for all hair types

-We customize our sprays based on your pets genetic coat type and skin needs. We use a blend of different products that maintains healthy skin and hair in between appointments. We have our Green Pek for hydration and brushing, our Ginger and Elderberry Pek for itching and irritation, our Orange Pek for vitamins and minerals, our K101 for frizziness/dry skin, and so much more.

-We have special sprays for coats that need extra help due to damage or a skin irritation/problem. We offer our Mineral Mist Spray for damaged coats needing vitamins and minerals to regrow and regenerate the coat. We offer our Triple Oil Spray to pets suffering from itching, redness, and inflammation.

-We customize our Hydration Sprays for pets who need the hydration due to long, flowing coats. These sprays keep their hair follicle closed and healthy which reduces matting and tangling and makes it easier at brushing time to get through the coat.



Did You Know:

- We give a 10% discount if we see you bi-weekly
- We give a 20% discount if we see you weekly

-Long haired coats need to be brushed daily with a brush and comb

-A trick to make it easier is to break it up into body parts

-We can brush them for you in between haircuts with one of our bath packages

-We recommend the Chris Christensen Coral Brush, Chris Christensen greyhound fine/coarse comb, and Chris Christensen pin brush (for silky hair only) for long coats

-We recommend the Andis Fine Tooth Deshedding rake and Chris Christensen fine/coarse greyhound comb for medium coats (use Coarse side for medium coats)

-We recommend a Kong Zoom Groom brush for short coats

(Take my picture for later, see Brushing slide for more info)

