

Whether you are starting with your brand new puppy, or learn to brush a pet you have owned & loved forever, here are a few helpful tips

When you get a new dog it is of the utmost importance to understand that routine grooming is top priority. We make this very clear when we send our puppies home. Regular grooming is a must, for hypoallergenic non-shedding dogs, and a HUGE part of the package to experience a non-shed, or low shed dog.

The more you are able to do yourself, the less a financial burden, must you will need to learn to be thorough, using a comb after the brush, otherwise your brush can go right over matting.

Start with a good slicker brush & metal comb. The idea is to brush through the entire coat, and then comb through, down to the skin to check your work. You will need a table, at a comfortable height for you, with a rug, or nonskid surface to keep them on your level. Make grooming a part of their normal routine at home, 2-3 times per week. There is not many dogs or cats that are going to "like" the process of brushing & combing, in the beginning. It's something new, and not a fun game, and not completely comfortable the first time or two. Like brushing your children's hair, they don't love it, but they learn to tolerate it as a part of their daily lives. You just want to be sure you are not hurting them throughout the process, meaning the coat is already in "good" shape when you start, and you continue, until finished, even when they are fussing. My new puppy Tia made a "scene" the first two brushings, not because I was hurting her, but because she did not want me to do it. If I had stopped in the middle when she fussed, it would mean she learned that struggling, stopped the brushing, and she would fight twice as long the next time) Keep calm, and brushing, again KNOWING that you are not hurting them at all until completely finished combing, then a treat (not during) and down off the table. The next time is easier the third time easier, until it becomes "routine" for your pet. They have learned that fussing, does nothing for them...they resign themselves to the process...for the rest of their lives YOU CANNOT DO THIS IF THE PET IS ALREADY MATTED

For hypoallergenic & no to low shed dogs,

First things first:

Put them on the table, brush entirely through, then COMB, through every inch of the pets body. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE IS WHEN THE PET IS MATTED. De-matting or brushing a pet that is already matted, HURTS, and is a very good reason for your pet to hate grooming for the rest of his/her life. Matting happens when brushing and thorough combing is not done on a regular basis, and the only thing that can be done, is clipping, meaning asking the groomer to go underneath the matting, which means REALLY SHORT, this gets the matting off with less discomfort to your pet. They look TERRIBLE, but they were not hurt in this process, (hopefully) and you can start brushing again, 2-3 times per week to get used to the brushing process when there is no matting to contend with.

Once again:

The idea is to NEVER have matting...by being pro-active and brushing. This allows you to have a trim (not shave DOWN) every eight weeks or so, keeping the length where you want it. Dogs look best, and are easily brushed & maintained, when they have about an inch on the body and two inches on the legs, and 3" on the head, & tail, IF you do this every eight weeks, and brush & comb, 2-3 times per week, in between, you will never have a matted dog. Cats prefer not to be clipped, (they hate it actually) and should only be clipped in a 911, matting situation.

For hypoallergenic & no to low shed dogs:

If you are not able to brush your dog, due to circumstances or lack of time, you must have a groomer brush them out every 4 weeks, and clip every 8 weeks, this is the only way to keep your dog at a cute length. PERIOD.

To save heartache, and a cold dog in the winter time, just make these appointments ahead of time...basically on a standing basis AND KEEP THEM. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOUR PET IS MATTED AND EXPECT MIRACLES FROM YOUR GROOMER, the only way to get mats out hurts!!!! Don't allow a groomer to de-mat your dog, they will hate grooming forever! Some groomers will do this, and actually pull the mats (knotted hair) out by the roots to please you, and keep your business, this is inhumane to your pet, and never OK...or take hours to do it piece by tiny piece, and cost you a fortune!

The other option is to do a very short clip every 3 months, to save money, they do not look good, but you do not have to brush hardly, at all, (head & tail) and neither does the groomer. The hair just comes off...the dog is never dealing with de-matting, which is always the idea NEVER allow matting to occur, without expecting to have it clipped off, which always means a very short (and ugly) haircut.

If you own a shedding dog, or any feline, the regular brushing keeps the hair off the floor, and in your brush....very helpful! It also stimulates the skin & hair follicles, less dandruff, and a shinier coat.

Good nutrition also plays an important part in a shiny, healthy coat. We can go over this in another newsletter