

# BE MORE DOG

LOCAL, EXPERIENCED, QUALIFIED, FUN, SAFE & INSURED

## GROOMING AFTER CARE AND COAT MAINTENANCE.

Home grooming is essential to maintain your pups coat between your grooming appointments ranging from four to 8 weeks for most breeds.

### 1. Choosing the right brush

Depending on your dog's coat, you will need different types of brushes and combs to achieve a matt free coat.

#### 1.1. Slicker Brush and Fine Tooth Metal Comb Combo – Suitable for double coated, curly coated and long straight coated dogs

**Slicker brushes** are best for removing dead hair, skin, debris and help dematting hair. The hooked shaped bristles are packed tightly together so the brush stays strong and can get deep in to thick coats and bring it all up to the surface instead of only brushing the top layer or 'Guard Coat'.

The best way to use this brush is to brush against the natural hair growth such as tail to head and feet to body. To make sure you are removing all knots and tangles you can check the coat using a **fine tooth metal comb**.



Figure 1 Slicker Brush

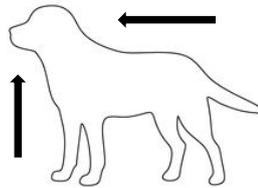


Figure 2 Brushing Direction Demo

To use a comb properly, you must comb with the natural hair growth, if your comb is catching or snags it means there is a matt.

To remove a matt, use the slicker brush to tease it out gently, finishing with the comb for a smooth finish. Sometimes the matting may be too close to the skin – in this case the matting cannot be teased out using this technique.

If this is happening, please stop and bring the dog in for a groom. If you continue to pull you may get brush burn where the skin becomes red and irritated, and you may risk tearing the skin.



Figure 3 Fine Tooth Metal Comb

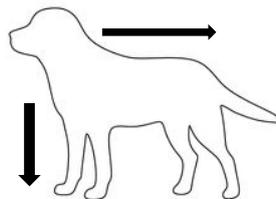


Figure 4 Combing Direction Demo

### 1.2. Pin Brush - Long straight coats and Long double coated dogs

If you are brushing your pup and there is no matting or knots, you can use a **Pin Brush**.

Brushing distributes natural oils, leaving a shiny, healthy coat. You can use this brush in conjunction with the **Slicker Brush** and **Comb**, using the pin brush for daily brushings and the slicker/comb combo for matts and tangles.

To properly use a pin brush first start at the back of the dog working your way towards the head in sections. Fold the hair over against the natural hair growth and brush in layers always brushing with the hair growth, repeat this till the whole dog is brushed.



Figure 5 Pin Brush

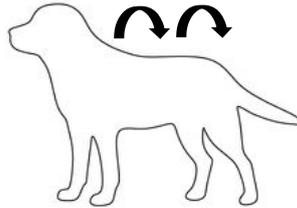


Figure 6 Pin Brush Direction Demo

### 1.3. Safari Rake Long double coated dogs

Double-coated dogs have Primary Guard Hairs and a Secondary Undercoat. Contrary to belief, shaving your double-coated dogs does not cool them down in the hotter months and leaving your dog's winter coat to grow in untrimmed will not keep them warmer in the cooler months. Instead, what they need is a de-shed.

De-shedding is the process of brushing out the dead hair your dog naturally sheds every day! While they are shedding sometimes the hair can become impacted and block their natural insulation (refer to figure 8).

The best tool you can use to de-shed is a **Safari Rake** not to be mistaken with a **FURminator**. The safari rake is designed to go deep into the undercoat and grab on to the impacted hair without cutting or damaging the guard hairs. To properly de-shed your dog refer to figure 6 and use the same method. As you pull, the dead undercoat hair will be released leaving the coat healthy and shiny. This process should be repeated every day regardless of the seasons to ensure a healthy coat. If you can feel large matted clumps these must be professionally removed or clipped out especially around sensitive areas such as behind the ears, hygiene areas and armpits.



Figure 7 Safari Rake

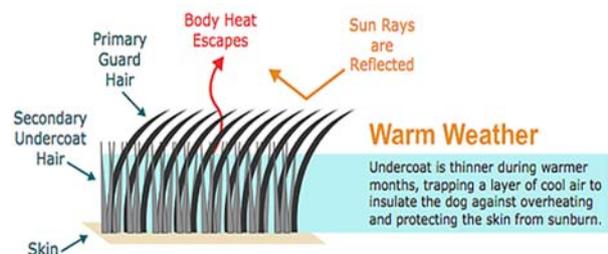


Figure 8 Double Coated Dog Coat Structure Diagram

#### 1.4. **FURminator - Short double and Single coated dogs**

Short hair dogs that also have a double coat such as pugs and labradors can use **FURminators**, as well as short single coated dogs such as boxers and pointers. The benefit of using a FURminator is the fine tines that are designed to pull out dead hair making it easy to maintain your dogs natural shedding cycle. However, caution must be taken with this tool as a FURminators tines have a cutting edge towards the inside.

Proper use of a FURminator is to work in long, gentle strokes following the dogs natural hair growth. Never use the FURminator when your dog is wet and always be sure not to stay on one section for too long or press too hard as this can lead to irritation or scratches on your dogs skin. Be careful around your dogs' legs and bony areas such as the ribs, spine and tail - take your time and go slow.



Figure 9 FURminator

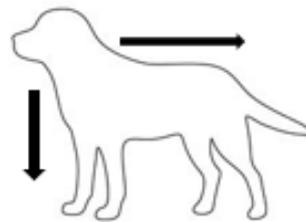


Figure 10 FURminator Direction Demo

#### 1.5. **Bristle Brush - Short single coated dogs and/or dogs with Sensitive skin and Fine hair**

If you have a dog with a short single coat or a dog who has a long/short single coat but also has very fine hair (thinning out) or a dog with sensitive skin due to aging or a medical condition, you can use a Bristle Brush. These brushes are very soft and will not scratch or damage your dogs skin. They are ideal for daily brushing to promote the distribution of natural oils, leaving a shiny, healthy coat and nourished skin.

The proper way to use a Bristle Brush is to follow the natural hair growth and use long strokes. If your single coat short hair dog is shedding use a **FURminator** as a **Bristle Brush** will only brush, and will not deshed.



Figure 11 Bristle Brush

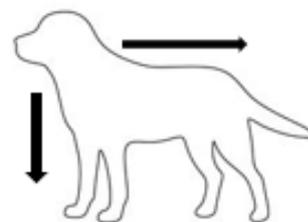


Figure 12 Bristle Brush Direction Demo

## 2. Choosing the right coat and harness

If your dog's fur is always getting matted, no matter how much you brush and comb; it could be your style of coat or harness that is causing the matting.

### **2.1. Satin Lined Coats - Curly coated, long double coated, long single coated and long styled groomed dogs**

Satin lined coats are the best type to choose for most coat types, however; they are the only choice for all long or curly type coats such as Cavoodles, Poodles Pomeranians and Shih Tzu. This is because wool, fleece, mesh and knit coats create **friction matts**. The matting is caused from the hair being caught in between the fibres of the coat and causes the hair to cause a knot as the dog runs, plays and sleeps.

To avoid this from happening you should buy a **Satin Lined Coat**. Similar to a parker or raincoat the material will slide with your dog's hair as they move, reducing the amount of matting and cutting down on brushing. Make sure to brush your dog every time you remove the coat or harness.

### **2.2. Wool, Fleece, Mesh and Knit coats - Short double or single coated dogs**

These coats are ideal for short hair dogs double or single coat. However, if you have neither of these coat types but have had a short hair groom we still do not recommend these coats as while your dog's hair is regrowing it can grow back damaged dry and or matted.

## 3. Bathing, Beach Trips, Splash Pools and Rainy Days

If you decide that your dog is a little smelly and needs a bath in between your groom but do not want to bring them in to the groomers there are a few things to remember.

- When bathing your dog make sure that you use pet shampoo as human shampoo is does not have the same PH levels and can irritate the skin.
- Always remember to condition your dog's coat after shampooing to prevent your dog's coat and skin from drying out and becoming brittle.
- If you have a double coated or curly coated dog ALWAYS completely dry and brush out your dog's hair. Dog hair that is not dried properly this can lead to irritations of the skin - most commonly bacterial and fungal infections and **hot spots** (figure 13 & 14).
- If your dog is matted, **DO NOT WASH THEM**. When matts get wet the hair shrinks and tightens causing pelting and irritation. These matts must be clipped out as it too dangerous and painful for the dog to tease out

If you often go to the beach, splash pools and or they walk through the rain and puddles we recommend you dry and brush them completely every time to avoid matting and irritations from occurring.



Figure 13 Hot Spot example

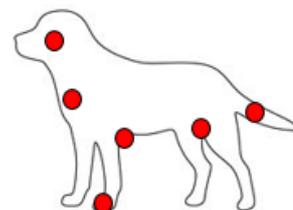


Figure 14 common places to find hot spots

Face/ears, chest, armpits, paws, groin & base of tail