

At Home Brushing Tips for Long-Haired Dogs

We recommend more frequent grooming if you want to keep your dog in a haircut longer than ¼ inch.

- **Designate a spot** to brush, ideally on a higher surface to imitate a grooming table. Tether your dog with a leash or have someone hold them in place.
- **Using a slicker brush**, push back the hair with your hand so you can see the skin, and brush the hair out from under your hand.
- **Brush thoroughly from head to tail.** Don't forget legs, feet, and other joints.
- **Follow with a metal comb** to check for leftover tangles.
- **Do this once weekly**, at least. Ideally, brush your dog every day.
- **Reward your dog** with a special treat when the brushing session is finished.
- **Consistency is key.** It might not be their favorite thing, but it is very important for their wellbeing.

Recommended Tools: slicker brush with stiff bristles, metal comb, deshedding tool if your dog has a double coat (furminator, sleek-ez, deshedding rake).



Shaving & De-Matting

Matted hair can cause many issues with your pets' coat and skin. Over time, mats may be very close to the skin and, as a result, they can be very difficult to remove and may require the pet to be shaved. Removing a heavily matted coat can cause irritation or reveal an existing issue prior to the grooming process.

Not only are mats uncomfortable, heavy matting can also trap moisture, feces, and urine near the pet's skin. This may cause the skin to become inflamed or infected.

After removing mats, you may notice your pet chewing, rubbing, scratching, or licking at their skin. Try not to let them rub on furniture or carpet, lick or scratch excessively as this may cause the irritation to their skin to get worse.

If redness or skin irritation does occur, call your vet for instructions as soon as possible!

Ear Hematomas

An ear hematoma is a pocket of blood that has accumulated on the ear flap, usually as a result of shaking the head, excessive scratching, etc. Heavy mats on a dog's ears can cause discomfort. In some cases, blood flow is restricted by the tightness of the mat. When these mats are removed their ears may suddenly feel tingly from the rush of restricted blood flowing back to the surface. They then shake their head, which causes the soft ear leather to knock against the dog's head. Consistent scratching or head shaking may cause the ear to swell. In some cases the shaking can cause blood vessels to rupture and the ears to bleed. Keep in mind, heavy matting can also accompany inflammation or infection of the ear canal.

We use happy hoodies in the salon and let the ears dry naturally to help prevent hematomas from happening. We may send your dog home with a hoodie or you can make one at home yourself with a sock.

Veterinary advice at the owner's expense should be sought if complications arise from having a matted and/or neglected coat removed.

Eye Crust

It is very important to keep your dog's face clean and clear of eye discharge as it can build up and harden and become very uncomfortable. Light discharge is relatively common but excessive amounts, changes in color, or eye irritation can be indicators of infection and should be discussed with your veterinarian.

You can use a damp wash cloth or dog safe wipe to soften the crust and gently wipe it away. A flea comb may also be used. Brachycephalic dogs (smushed faces) like shih-tzus, pugs, frenchies, etc. will need this done daily to help prevent problems. Removing heavy crust may cause irritation or small wounds to the skin underneath.