

# THE GROODLE: Coat & Grooming



**Oodles West**  
oodleswest.godadysites.com



### **Flat coat:**

The flat coat is straight or with a slight wave, more like that of the Golden retriever. This type is less likely to mat and will require a quick brush once a month. Flat coats are more likely to shed and are not recommended for those with allergies

### **Fleece:**

The Fleece textured coat has a soft silky texture. It may be straight and wavy or soft with a looping curl. This coat is less likely to shed or trigger allergies. and usually requires a trim twice a year.

### **Wool:**

The Wool textured coat is more dense in texture, resembling the spiralling wool of a sheep or lamb. It should not be too dense or tightly curled. The wool coat rarely sheds and is less likely to trigger allergies.

The wool coat can matt easily and will require weekly brushes and 2-3 trims a year.

**\*\* Please note that Groodles Australia cannot guarantee non-shedding or low-allergy puppies. The golden retriever heritage means exceptions occur. If you require absolute certainty of these qualities in a dog we would recommend you purchase a poodle.**

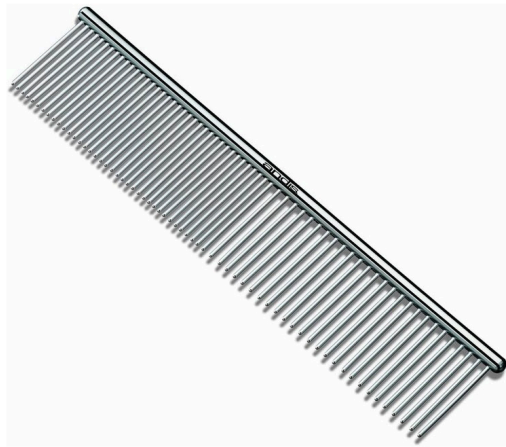
***Coat types are dependent on the parent dogs, and while it is possible to predict to an extent whether a puppy is likely to shed, this cannot be completely guaranteed.***

## Grooming

Coat types and lifestyle play a large role in the frequency of grooming required. The Groodle coat will naturally pick up small amounts of debris from the immediate environment and regular brushing should be performed to avoid tangles and matting, particularly behind the ears, in the tail plume, and around the mouth.

Some owners choose to shave their Groodle's coat completely twice a year, and if this is the case, not a lot of grooming is required in between. Those wishing to spend time pampering their pooches may enjoy allowing their Groodles coat to grow longer – we think they look gorgeous either way!

Allow your pup to get used to grooming early in life so it becomes comfortable with handling, grooming exercises and grooming equipment. Short and regular minor grooming exercises for short periods of time in conjunction with positive reinforcements (such as treats or cuddles) are a good place to start!



Hard Wire Comb



Brush



Nail Clippers



Dog Dryer

*"If you keep up on combing and brushing, then you can keep your doodles hair any length."—TeAnna*

We frequently get asked "When should I take my puppy to get groomed for the first time?" and "What type of haircut should I ask for to get the perfect teddy bear look?" Since we are not professionals when it comes to grooming we thought we would ask someone who is. We interviewed our grooming artist, TeAnna who is the owner of Ruffledales Pet Resort & Paw Spa and asked her several of those questions.

### **When should a puppy go to the groomer for the 1st time?**

After the puppy has received at least two sets of DHPP, one bordetella, and the veterinarian agrees it's safe to be groomed. Typically it is around the 10-12 week mark. We recommend coming in for a bath and brush so the puppy can feel safe and confident with the grooming process.

### **A few tips to get your puppy familiar with getting groomed:**

Brush your puppy at an early age. Get the puppy familiar with the brush and comb so when they go to the groomers it's a positive experience.

Play with your puppy's feet. As groomers, we see a lot of puppies that are really freaked out when we touch their feet. If the owners of the puppies played with their feet and got them comfortable with people touching that area it makes our job a lot easier.

### **How often should you brush your Groodle?**

This is tricky, all groodles have slightly different coats and some are more prone to matting due to genetics. We definitely recommend brushing out the coats daily or three times a week. If you are noticing little mats and only brushing three times a week, definitely increase the brushing schedule.

How do you prevent matting?

Get a good quality comb! Sometimes brushes only go over the beautiful top coat and don't fully get the mats. Mats start at the skin and are likely to hide under all the fur. We recommend using a hard wire comb and starting at the skin and combing the hair out. It's very important in areas of high friction, where the collar is, around the armpits, where the tail meets the body and around the face and behind the ears. After combing your doodle, we recommend using a high quality brush.





## A matted groodle.

### Why is combing and brushing so important?

This picture says it all! Mats can be extremely painful for dogs. If a small mat is not properly addressed, it can turn a small issue into a much bigger one for your doodle. Mats have the ability to lock down against a dog's skin. With every move your dog makes these knots can get tighter and harder to comb through.

If these mats are left untreated, they can be a great place for fleas and other unwanted parasites to hide and live. In fact, sometimes groomers find mold and yeast infections under the coats.

### How often should you groom your Groodle?

This depends on how you choose to keep their hair. The longer lengths really need to be groomed more often due to having a higher risk of matting. The matts are just like dread locks and can be very difficult and painful to brush out. There is also a risk of hematoma to the ears if they are badly matted and have to be shaved. If you'd would like to leave your doodle long, we recommend getting bath and brush outs between grooms around every 3-4 weeks and getting grooms 6-8 weeks apart. If you like your doodle shaved short, then every 6-8 weeks is usually adequate, as long as you are doing your part and brushing them at home.





## Ears

Examining your Groodles' ears regularly is a good idea, as the structure of the ear is 'floppy' and does not allow for much ventilation. Make a habit of flipping the ears back and taking a quick peek underneath to ensure the openings are clean and are not emitting any odours.

Cotton buds are not usually recommended for ear cleaning as they may damage the structures inside the ear if used incorrectly. Instead, try wiping the insides of the ears with some soft cotton swabs, lightly soaked in a suitable ear cleaner and wrapped around your index finger.

Groodles must have their ears properly dried after an ear clean, bath or swim to avoid infections which can be exacerbated by moisture.





## Eyes

Eyes may be cleaned daily with a warm, wet cotton ball to prevent a build-up of eye discharge and to reduce tear staining. A small amount of daily discharge can be normal for this breed. Trimming carefully around eyes on a regular basis can also help to keep them clean and stop irritation of the eyes.

## Bathing

Bathing is only required as necessary and is usually not required more often than once a month. When you do bathe your Groodle, it is important to use a gentle, veterinary-recommended shampoo that will not harshly strip any natural oils from the skin or coat.

A towel dry followed by a quick blow-dry should have your Groodle set in no time! Brushing the coat as you blow-dry can reduce drying time, and make your Groodle's coat super fluffy!

## Nails

Most dogs that have an active lifestyle do not require routine nail trimming. If and when they do need a trim, you may do this yourself, or have a professional do it for you. It can be tricky to master nail clipping, as some Groodles have black toenails, making it difficult to see exactly where to clip without causing the nail to bleed.

