

Skin Science

For Clients



All Things Paw

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Ethical ~ Educated ~ Pet Care

As professionals, it is our duty to educate, be courteous, and patient. We try our very best to interpret your wants and needs, but will not sacrifice quality, love and care.

We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone for any reason that may, in our interpretation, endanger the health and soundness of the pet.

Please remember, Grooming is an Art and Skill, not a factory made item. We connect with a fellow being on a very deep level. We must never forget the feelings and fears of the four-legged "children" we are caring for.

Please take your pet's age, temperament, past trauma, and emotional state into consideration when discussing the length and cost of the grooming and/or therapy process.

Humane treatment, mutual respect, and continuous education on the latest research and methodology are the core of what sets us apart from the average pet care establishment.

Pet wellness is; quality environment, quality products, and quality care, mind, body and spirit.



Client Questions and Concerns

Concern 1) "Bathing too often is bad for dogs and it dries out their skin."

Due to current research and better formulation of products, dogs and cats can be washed regularly without damaging their skin.

Concern 2) "I can't handle the shedding, please just shave it off!"

There are 2 major shedding times of the year that happen during the Solstices, June 21 and December 21. Off season shedding can happen when the coat is too dry and it breaks off or there is an underlying issue causing Alopecia or hair loss. The first issue can be alleviated with an extra hydration treatment while the second may need to be explored by your veterinarian. Shaving causes the hair to fall out in small sharp pieces that aggravate itching and allergies. Shaving also removes the protective hair covering that shields our pets from damaging UV rays, toxins, bacteria and pollutants that is then absorbed into their system.

Concern 3) "My dog is too hot; the hair has to come off."

The hair is a natural wind and sun barrier and is essential in the movement of oils across the skin. Each hair follicle is attached to a muscle call the Erector Pili that raises and lowers the hair in a complex ventilation system to keep the pet cool in summer and warm in winter. Humans have melanin in our skin that darkens to protect us from the sun, our pets don't have this in their skin, it is in their hair! Once we shave the hair barrier off there is no more protection.

Concern 4) "My dog's hair grows too fast."

Depending on the breed of your pet, there are techniques and products that can be used so the animals' health and beauty is not compromised and the comfort of the owner is satisfied.

Client Concerns

Concern 5) "My dog hates being groomed; I don't want to put him/her through this very often."

Dogs love routine and are able to trust a groomer who is not a stranger. Frequent visits help soothe fears of the unknown and keeps the skin at a maximum level of health. Proper and ethical handling leads to a calm, happy pet. If your pet is afraid of going to the groomer, you should find out why.

Concern 6) "He won't let me brush him so he is always matted. Sorry!"

We offer free brushing and de-matting lessons! Another solution is to come in between grooms for a low cost brush out.

Concern 7) "Shave my pet, he/she has bad skin."

"Bad skin" is a sign of imbalance and needs a hair covering to protect the skin and keep it properly oiled. If deeper issues are emerging, a veterinarian visit is always recommended.

Concern 8) "I have allergies, my pet needs to have short hair."

Length of hair will not reduce allergies. Regular and proper cleansing of the skin is the only thing that will reduce the irritant that is sticking to your pet.

A. C. T. - The Hair Cycle

Hair is the skin's first physical barrier against toxins and pollutants in the environment.

It is structured as follows:

1. Medulla- core (main structure)
2. Cortex- inner layer (where pigmentation lies)
3. Cuticle- external layer (consists of scales)

A dog or cats follicles are arranged in groups consisting of primary hairs surrounded by secondary hairs. The density of hair depends on the breed and age of the animal. The softer the hair, the more dense it is. The movement of the hair is controlled by the Erector Pili muscle. Hair color and length are genetically predetermined. Hair does not last forever nor does it fall out at the same time. Shedding starts at the rear of the animal and moves towards the front. Hair loss is cyclical and consists of 3 phases. They are as follows:

Anagen Phase: a period of growth for the hair and its follicle, which grows in the dermis. It lasts about 130 days in the Bulldog and up to 18 months in the Afghan Hound.

Catagen Phase: a resting phase. The growth stops and the follicle shrinks.

Telogen Phase: The follicle shrinks all the way to the orifice of the sebaceous gland. The base of the hair shrinks to a cone shape and the hair falls out. Another hair begins to grow, starting with Anagen and growing in the same follicle as its predecessor.

It is exceptionally important to know this cycle in order to understand the importance of proper intervals between grooms (including regular brushing and de-shedding).

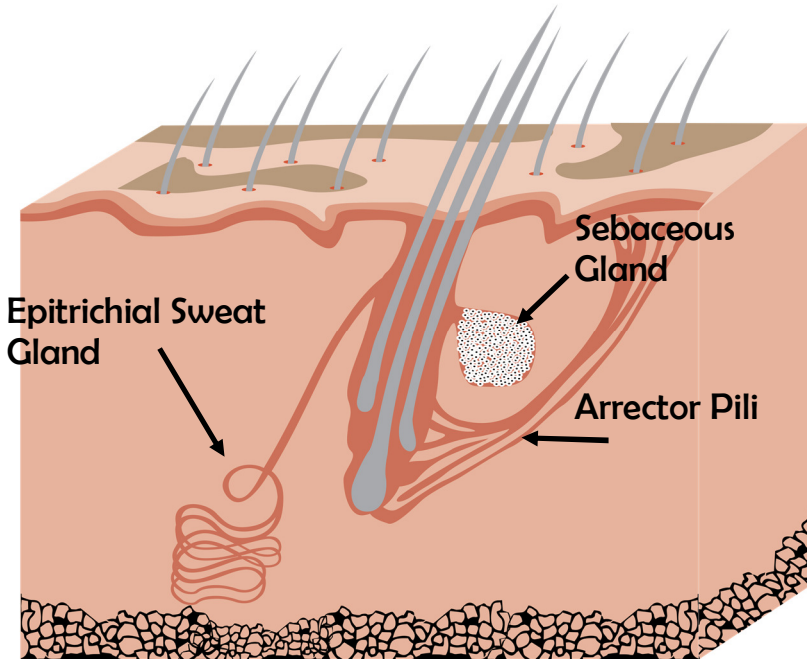
Factors that may affect hair growth:

Daylight and **Temperature** changes

Hormonal system (endocrine function)

Stress (releases Cortisol which in turn slows hair growth)

The Cutaneous Immune System (Skin)



Epidermis: 1st layer

Formed of keratinized cells.
Protective physical and chemical barrier.

Dermis: 2nd layer

Responsible for flexibility, pigmentation, structure, and sensory perception.

Subcutis: 3rd layer

Also known as, subcutaneous fat.
Regulates body temperature, prevents disaster to body.

The skin is the body's protective barrier. Without it life would be impossible. This protection works on physical, chemical and microbiological levels.

The skin is responsible for exchanges through secretions. The sweat gland and sebaceous gland produce sweat and sebum. Together they form a protective fluid or "mantle" (PH balance of 6.5 to 7) on the surface of the skin and hair.

The skin has a role in metabolism. This helps with production of vitamin D, pigmentation, and regulation of body temperature.

The skin helps the body perceive changes in temperature, pressure, pain and surface contact.

Skin renews itself on a 21 day cycle. This is the reason we recommend scheduling grooms at least 3 to four weeks apart.

Good health starts with hugs, diet, clean environment, exercise, and playtime. Proper care on the inside shows on the outside. Taking care of the skin is enormously important!! A Healthy animal has healthy skin and healthy skin produces a beautiful coat.

All dogs and cats need Oils, minerals and Collagen or hydration,
But they all need them in different proportions.

Spectrum of Care by Coat Type



Oils - Minerals - Collagen

End the Myth of Shaving...

The hair (or coat) of cats and dogs protects and isolates their body helping to keep the pet's inner temperature. A healthy coat prevents the body from wasting warmth and protects the pet against mosquitoes. The coat also acts as a protection against ultraviolet rays, heat, cold, humidity and all external agents. So essentially, a healthy coat, according to the breed, keeps the pet healthy.

Each kind of coat has in fact its particular needs and a good groomer should be able to identify these needs and then give the right information on the matter.

Coat protects skin. Many essential metabolic activities take place at skin level, for example the peripheral aromatization of estrogens and androgens. The Cutaneous Immune System, or skin, is one of the most important immune defenses against microorganisms, allergens and parasites.

The skin glands produce a protective layer, which plays a fundamental role as a physical and chemical barrier for substances which are useful for the skin defenses. It is called the superficial hydrolipidic layer and it is made out of lipids resulting from the decomposition of the horny layer, capable of a better antibacterial activity than lipids produced by skin glands.

The PH of dog skin (in healthy dogs) is around 6.5 to 7. This varies slightly depending on the area of the body. You must know that a lower PH (slightly acid) has more bacteriostatic and bactericidal activity.

Short coats have the least amount of protection of any other type of coat. Once we remove this protection by shaving the animal, we have taken away every chance of protection that the animals skin has to keep the body healthy. Shaving kills the primary hair that is the only type of hair that can properly carry the natural oils that are necessary for survival. Shaving also raises the low critical temperature (the lowest temperature that the body can survive if encountering trauma) so in essence, we take away everything that helps keep a short coated animal healthy. There are several options we have to maintain a shedding short coat. Hydration is the key. If the skin is well protected, healthy and hydrated, this is the best case scenario for a minimally shedding coat.

De-shedding treatments are very deep and healthy for the pet and can remove up to 95% of loose hair. We recommend this procedure instead of shaving.



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