



## Matted hair policy

We know that no owner deliberately lets their pets become matted, however it does happen quite easily and it can be difficult to groom a pet with a matted coat. Please be aware that there is a much higher risk that your pet's skin could be nicked with the clippers as the blade has to get underneath the mats in order to be removed. Every effort will be made to avoid this happening.

There is also a strong chance that your pet's skin will become irritated during the clipping process. Medicated shampoos will be used to help soothe any irritation that may occur and your groomer will advise on any aftercare which may be required.

If not treated, a matted coat could cause future health problems, therefore every effort will be made to remove the coat. In extreme circumstances, if the process becomes too stressful or painful, Coventry cat groomers may recommend that your pet is de-matted under sedation by a veterinarian. It is the objective of Coventry cat groomers that each animal has a stress-free experience, therefore pets will never be subjected to prolonged discomfort.

Coventry cat groomers will not be held liable for any of the above named associated processes and all medical problems that may be uncovered and/or occur during the de-matting process will not be the responsibility of Coventry cat groomers.

Should your pet require veterinarian care after or during the process, Coventry cat groomers will not be responsible or liable for any veterinarian fees.

It may be beneficial to your cat to wear a surgical vest after de-matting, some cats can feel exposed after being shaved and this can help them feel more secure and provide extra warmth.



## **What cause's matting and how to prevent it?**

Matts form due to a combination of dead fur shedding which hasn't been manually removed with a comb along with excess grease in the coat, so along with regular brushing, cats benefit from regular baths using cat friendly shampoo. Many believe that cats hate water and worry a bath would traumatise the cat however, the majority actually really enjoy the process, I've had many cats fall asleep in the bath!

The washing and drying process helps remove dead fur and excess oils from the coat and will leave your cat feeling fresh and clean, be sure to dry the coat fully and brush through after to prevent matts forming in a wet coat. This can be done every 6-8 weeks, if you don't feel this is something you can do at home contact the salon.

When matts form on a cat it becomes extremely uncomfortable for them, it pulls on the skin, can restrict limb movement and can become ripped from the skin causing trauma, as you can imagine, this is very painful for the cat and at that point the only solution is to shave the fur off. If you try to comb or cut this out with scissors, you risk damaging their extremely delicate skin and in turn, the cat associates grooming with extreme pain and is then reluctant in the future, its for this reason its essential you begin brushing your cat with the correct brush (we will discuss this further along in the booklet) as soon as you bring your cat home.

Not only is it beneficial for the cats skin and fur to begin a good grooming regime at home, it's also a fantastic way to bond with your cat. Cats love a fuss and if you create a positive experience around your grooming regime, your cat will see it as a pleasure rather than something to run away from.

It may seem like a simple solution to have your long haired (or short haired) cat shaved regularly (lion trim), after all, it means you don't have to worry about daily grooming, right? Unfortunately not! Cats have fur for a reason, it serves a purpose for them and should only be removed if the cats fur is heavily matted (pelted).

The fur helps to regulate their body temperature, giving the cat a lion trim for summer sounds like it would help keep them cool but unfortunately it has the opposite effect because the fur helps protect their body from the heat and keep them cool. It also puts them at risk of sunburn, the usually protected skin is now exposed to the sun, even indoor cats as they lay on the windowsill.

Shaving can also affect how the fur grows back, it changes the texture of the fur and repeated shaving may cause follicular dysplasia (fur loss) where the fur may not grow back at all, although this isn't common, it is a possibility to be aware of.

Cats are very sensitive creatures and removing their fur may leave them feeling vulnerable and could create behavioural issues, some do not like the sound or feeling of the clippers and can be a traumatic event, its for these reasons a good grooming regime should be maintained at home along with visits to the salon and shaving is for welfare reasons only, not used instead of regular grooming.