

Clipdown (aka clip off/shave down)

RISKS

- X The fleece or matted coat may need to be removed by shaving very close to the skin. There is a risk the skin could be nicked during the process or of your pet suffering clipper irritation (clipper rash).
- X Your pet may find the process stressful or tedious. If so, it may be necessary to complete the clipdown in more than one session to complete the task. I reserve the right to charge separately for any additional session/s.
- X Once the matted coat is removed pre-existing conditions may be exposed. Some of these – such as hotspots, sores or severe itching may be due to self-induced trauma from scratching. Other conditions include, but are not limited to:

-  Fungal, bacterial & yeast infections  Infected eyes, ears or feet
-  Parasite infestation eg. fly strike, fleas, ticks, mites  Moist Eczema
-  Urine & faeces scalding  Over- or ingrown nails

It is not unusual for the skin to become more irritated during or because of a clipdown. There is a possibility it may require veterinary intervention.

- X A clipdown dramatically changes your dog's appearance – its hair will be noticeably short and close to the skin. Your dog may behave differently after a clipdown. Take extra care of your dog's skin & be attentive to its wellbeing.

Repeated clipdowns are NOT a solution

Matting is caused by neglect - failure to responsibly manage the coat. It is not possible to groom out a matted coat. It is a straitjacket from which your pet may need to be humanely released. It may be in discomfort or pain. If it is unused to being handled for grooming it may be fearful or aggressive.

It will associate visits to the groomer (or vet) with negative experiences. This can have a significantly adverse effect on behaviour & welfare. Not only does it unnecessarily distress your pet, it also places other humans who have to deal with your fearful or aggressive pet's health or welfare at higher risk of

being harmed by it.

The Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 holds dog owners criminally responsible.

AFTERCARE

- Your dog's skin may be tender due to lack of air circulation and debris accumulated in or beneath the matted coat. Any sores or infection should be attended to by a vet.
- Your dog may scratch and rub itself after a clipdown. Scratching must be minimised & skin breakage prevented. Monitor your pet's behaviour closely & inspect the skin for signs of tearing because of excessive scratching. If in doubt consult your pet's vet.
- In some cases, a lightweight snug fitting textile coat or dog t-shirt may help relieve itching. If the weather is cool & your dog previously had a thick or profuse natural coat, it must be protected from the elements with a textile coat outdoors initially.
- Your dog will feel different after a clipdown – lighter, cooler & possibly disoriented. Most are relieved to be released from discomfort (or pain) & enjoy unrestricted physical movement again. Some may appear to feel 'naked', 'shy', 'embarrassed' or 'chastened' for a few days after a clipdown until the skin normalises.
- It is important not to overreact to your dog's post-clipdown appearance. Rather than reinforcing undesirable behaviours with negative rewards by reacting to or punishing them, distract & encourage the desired behaviours you would prefer your pet to display, then reinforce these with positive rewards e.g., calm praise or small high value treats.

Try to maintain a normal doggy lifestyle as far as possible through healthy diet, regular exercise & grooming, stimulating controlled play & gentle handling.

Reassured under your calm, assertive leadership your pet should adjust quickly after being released from its matted straitjacket.