

HOW TO WIN THE WAR ON PET HAIR

PET HAIR, yes, I said it... PET HAIR, and with springtime upon us it's time to start thinking about ways that we can combat this pesky and frustrating problem. It doesn't seem to matter what we do, how careful we are when we dress in the morning to make sure that we have no cat or dog fur on us; the second we get into work...it's there. But with these helpful tips and a full description of what brushes to use for your unique pet hopefully we will have more "fur free" days ahead of us.

HANDY GROOMING TIPS

Grooming can be a great quiet time of bonding for you and your pet, as well as a simple way to keep your home from being overrun with pet hair. It's also a good time to check for fleas, lumps or any other problems. Once you have your pet quiet and your brushes ready start by running your hands through your pets coat back to front to massage the skin and loosen any dead hair. Starting with a massage also helps to release and distribute natural oils which gives a healthy shine to the coat. This will also help you locate any matts that need to be clipped out before you begin brushing. To start, brush against your dogs coat starting from their back and moving down their sides and down their legs. Take a minute to check between toes and the pads of their feet to find small rocks or debris that may have gotten caught there. Finish with a smoothing brush with the coat and a treat to reward your furry friend.

You can use the same technique for brushing a cat with short to medium fur, although some cats will not tolerate combing against the coat - these cats just need more frequent brushings to loosen dead hair. To brush a cat with long fur begin at the belly and move down the legs using a wide toothed comb untangling any knots that you find. Brush the body in an upwards motion starting at the scalp.

Proper grooming may take a bit of work. You might need to be patient until your pet learns to be still. Don't hesitate to use treats through-out the grooming process to re-affirm your pets good behaviour, but lets face it, there will be some pets that just hate to be brushed through and through. If this is the case, or if you have a dog that is particularly hard to groom or needs to be clipped as well, we have some great groomers in the area that we can help you find.

We recommend a full body groom at least once to twice a week. For dogs that need to be clipped by professional groomers you still need to brush in between groomings once weekly or follow your groomer's recommendations

THE BASICS OF A BRUSH

It's no wonder that most of us don't have any idea about what brush to use for our cat or dog. When you go to the pet store there is a variety of brushes in all sizes styles and colors. But what are they each made for? There is no description leaving us to choose the one that we **THINK** will be right for us. Hopefully this list of brushes and their descriptions will answer all of your questions and lead to less dog and cat fur to clean.

If your pet has a long or curly coat then the **SLICKER BRUSH** is right for you.

A **PIN BRUSH** is great if your dog has a short coat or sensitive skin. It's also a great general brush if your dog has curly, long, wiry, or curly fur. This is considered the best brush for getting rid of tangles or loose mats.

A **BRISTLE BRUSH** can be used on all coat types, and they vary according to the spacing between bristles and the length of the bristle. In general, the longer the hair, the wider spaced and longer the bristles should be. Also the coarser the hair the stiffer those bristles need to be. They are great for short smooth coated dogs or to bring out the sheen on your pooches long fur.

A **PORCUPINE BRUSH** is best used for removing debris or loose hair from medium to long coated dogs.



Many say that the **ZOOM GROOMER** is the best all around grooming tool for dogs and cats alike. They have rubber nubs and usually come in fun shapes and colors. They can be used wet, or dry so they're great to have around during bath time. They also come in a grooming mitt.

DE-MATTING COMBS are the tool most used for getting out any tangles or matts. For matts that are too matted shaving is the only way to get these out without hurting your pet. Please don't use scissors to cut out matts - we have seen too many lacerations from this type of dematting!

An UNDER COAT RAKE is great for dogs with dense double coats such as the Alaskan Malamute, Rough Collie or Keeshond. The prongs were designed to penetrate through the under coat into the double under coat to remove loose hair faster and easier than a regular comb. If you are having a hard time finding any of these brushes we can special order them through the clinic. May your pet be happy, healthy and your home...and clothes pet hair free :)