



Matted Coats Policy

At Doodle Den I believe in 'humanity before vanity'

If your dogs coat is matted, under no circumstances will I put them through pain or discomfort. If the coat only has a few small matts I will allow up to 20 minutes to brush them out. Any longer than this is cruel and extremely uncomfortable for your dog. In addition to this I am legally obliged to work within the constraints of the Animal Welfare Act (2006), considering your dogs welfare at all times.

If you are unable to run a comb through your dogs coat then it is matted.

Matted coats can cause a variety of skin and health problems. When a dogs coat is matted it does not allow circulation to the skin, which can cause overheating and an inability to regulate the dogs temperature. Matts pull and cause pain to your dog. The skin underneath can be inflamed and raw and a matted coat can not dry properly leading to further problems.

If your dogs coat is matted it will be clipped off short. Brushing out a matted coat, in addition to being cruel and painful, also damages the coat and is more likely to Matt up again, causing more problems and pain for your dog. Clipping off the matted coat allows it to grow back in again stronger and healthier and with regular grooming and maintenance, a lot easier and pain free for your dog.

Doodle Den will not be held liable for any after grooming effects of Matt clipping procedures or problems uncovered on a badly neglected coat. These could include, but are not limited to the following:

Itchiness, skin redness or self inflicted irritations/ abrasions from excessive rubbing.

Please be aware that there is a much higher risk that the dogs skin could get nicked with the clippers as the blade has to get underneath the Matt in order to remove it and although I will make every effort to avoid it, it does occasionally happen.

A dog with excessively matted ears are at risk of developing hematomas. Ear hematomas occur when a blood vessel in the ear bursts and bleeds into the space between the ear cartilage and skin. This is most commonly caused due to the blood vessels having been restricted by the matting, on release the blood rushes to the tip of the ears causing the dog to shake their head and can cause the ear to split and bleed. It is still kinder and necessary to remove the matts for the welfare of the dog.

A regular grooming schedule of between 4-8 weeks is advised, especially for curly coats.

It is your responsibility as the owner to brush your dogs coat at home.

I am happy to discuss grooming at home maintenance tools and techniques to help you and your dog.

I also offer a maintenance brush and bath service for between grooms to assist with grooming requirements.

If your dog becomes aggressive I will have to stop the groom.

If your dog is matted and requires a full shave down you will be required to complete and sign a consent form before I begin the groom.