

## Shaving Dogs in the Summer



In the heat of summer, many pet owners opt for shaving their dog. But before heading to the groomer, it's a good idea to know all the facts before you shave your dog.

Dogs sweat from their paws. This means that in many cases, having a long coat does not significantly affect the dog's body temperature. Still, here are some reasons to consider shaving:

- Your dog is too matted to detangle
- Your dog is a swimmer
- Your dog is too old or sick to tolerate a good comb-out
- Fleas and ticks are easier to spot
- Your dog is prone to hot spots, fungal conditions or is unusually smelly

There are many good reasons to shave your dog but we will give you an insight view on why you may want to reconsider that option. It is known that there can be a variety of skin and hair coat care problems that may occur after a complete shave down of a dog or cat, particularly the double coated dogs or those often referred to as the fur bearing rather than hair bearing dogs.

Those problems may be the following but not limited to:

- Loss of hair growth
- "Coat Funk"- the coat not growing back in the same texture and or color prior to shaving
- Bald patches
- Hyper pigmentation of the skin- Darkening of the skin where the coat has not grown back
- Sunburn
- Loss of Guard Coat- Top Layer of Coat

- Coat re-growth in different direction (cowlicks)



Other reasons not to shave a dog include:

- For double-coated dogs, fur protects against biting flies and mosquitoes
- Some dogs feel “naked” and vulnerable without their coats
- A dog may continue to scratch as if it still had its coat, and can irritate the freshly clipped skin, creating hot spots

It's important to weigh all the relevant factors before making that cut. If there's any doubt, consult with a veterinarian to discuss whether shaving is a good or safe option for your dog.