

# MATTED PET GROOMING RELEASE FORM

Name

Email

Phone

Dog Breed

Age of Dog

Primary Veterinarian of Pet

## Frequently Asked Questions About Matting

### What is a mat?

A mat is a mass of tangled hair, and sometimes other objects as well. Mats may be comprised of burrs, barbs from plants, or other debris (gum, tree sap, glue, paint, etc.). Unlike human hair, your pet's hair mats from the skin up, so it is important to comb from the skin out. This is why it is not sufficient to brush just the top layer of your pet's fur.

### What can happen to my pet's skin as a result of matting?

Matting can make it very difficult to see the skin beneath. As a result, the mat may conceal fleas or pests, skin irritations (such as lesions or scabs), and other conditions.

### Why can't we just bathe them? Or just cut the mats out?

Bathing a matted pet can not only prevent the pet from drying properly but can also worsen the existing mats. Pets must be properly brushed before getting wet (i.e. playing in the river or out in the rain), and without proper brushing before and after the bath, your furry friend may be worse off afterward. Mats soak up water like a sponge, causing them to become tighter, bigger, and closer to the skin (and thus more painful to your pet).

Simply cutting out mats is not recommended, as the skin can become entangled in the mats and result in injury to your pet. The safest way to remove mats close to the skin is by shaving it out with a special blade. This enables us to get under the mat completely.

### Why can't we demat?

Dematting can be done if the matting is not too extensive; however, it can be extremely painful and uncomfortable to your pet. With dematting, you always run the risk of cutting or injuring your pet. Not only do you run the risk of injuring your dog with dematting, but the grooming process necessary to remove mats from the coat may aggravate your pet's skin.

## My pet's coat mats no matter how often I brush, what am I doing wrong?

When you are brushing your pet, use a specialized brush or comb that gets all the way down to the skin. A human hairbrush will not always work for your pet's hair. Small slicker brushes will not make it all the way down to the skin, thus only brushing the top layer of hair.

Combs, in combination with a slicker brush work very well. This method allows you to comb entirely through the coat, from base to tip. A detangling spray is also helpful to use in conjunction with brushing and combing.

## Why do most groomers end up having to shave my pet?

In some instances, shaving is the only option. The groomer must be able to get under the mat in order to remove it properly. Sometimes, small areas can be spot shaved, meaning that the groomer is able to save the majority of fur on the body, but sensitive areas will have to be shaved.

Most commonly, these areas include the area behind the ears, part of the tail, armpits, or under the belly). The groomer will ALWAYS do what is best for your pet.

## Parental Consent to Remove Mats/Dematting

Please keep in mind that while we will always do what is safest for your pet, the removal of mats is a time consuming and sometimes dangerous process resulting in skin irritations (such as hot spots and sensitivity) and in the most severe cases hematomas and cuts/scrapes.

Due to the amount of matting in my pet's coat, I agree that all or part of the coat cannot be saved without causing discomfort or harm to my pet. I therefore authorize Cat and Cow Grooming to remove (shave down or spot shave) my pet's coat.

By my signature below, I release Cat and Cow from any and all liability for any skin conditions that might be revealed by the removal of the matted coat. I understand that such pre-existing conditions are not the responsibility of Cat and Cow. Revealed medical conditions may require veterinary care, and I will assume financial responsibility of any such expense.

Initial for Shave Down

Initial for Spot Shave/Demat