



Under the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 (updated 2010), section 5 - all animals are to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease

Matted (knotted or tightly tangled) coats can cause a variety of skin and health conditions for your dog. Air circulation to the skin is restricted causing hot spots and bacterial and fungal infections. Parasites like maggots, fleas and ticks along with injuries such as punctures, cuts and scratches may go undetected causing infections. Stickers, burrs, dirt and other objects may be tangled in the coat, becoming embedded causing pain and irritation. Matted fur binds and pulls at your dogs skin causing constant discomfort and pain, especially when moving. The skin underneath the mats can also become raw and inflamed.

Matted fur can not be properly cleaned or dried which can lead to rotting fur or skin. Depending on the severity of the matting, your dog may have to be spot or completely shaved to a short length. Grooming sessions for matted dogs can be long, stressful and painful and may result in bruising, skin irritation, redness, and razor burn by no fault of the groomer.

These experiences can result in a life long fear of grooming and behavioral issues by the dog at future sessions. Because of the added time to the grooming session, risk of damage to grooming tools, and stress to the dog and groomer there may be additional fees applied. If we can't get a metal grooming comb through the coat-it's matted!

I will make every attempt to make a matted dogs grooming experience as stress free as possible. Therefore, I will not attempt to dematt coats that cause pain, injury or suffering to the dog.

Again, my number one policy is *"Humanity before Vanity"* meaning I will not cause pain, discomfort or risk injury to a dog for an owners self interests. I reserve the right to refuse service to any person(s) who do not meet this standard.

I take photographs during the grooming process of severely matted areas to show owners at pick up.