

# Doodles & Matting



**What is matting?!** A condition in long haired dogs caused by severe knots and tangles in the dogs undercoat.

**Why does matting occur?** Typically mats form due to friction on the dogs coat. Friction can be caused by licking, scratching, petting, collars/harness left on the dog.

## **How do i know if my dog is matted?**

- The easiest way to tell is by taking a metal comb to the dogs coat. The comb should be able to go through the dogs coat at ease. Be sure to get the comb to the skin, not just the top coat.
- Feeling or seeing clumps of hair while petting your dog or your fingers getting caught in the dogs coat.
- The top layer is usually straight and the undercoat is tangled and frizzy looking.

## **What causes matting?**

- Not brushing or combing regularly (some coats require daily brushing)
- Brushing incorrectly
- wrestling/playing with other dogs
- Being wet - swimming, drool, rain or snow
- Bathing at home and letting them air dry
- Continuous scratching or licking in the same spot
- Keeping the dogs collar, harness, or clothing on for extended periods



- Coat change in puppies around 6-12 months

### **How to prevent matting:**

- The easiest way to prevent matting is daily brushing and combing.
- getting on 4-6 week groom schedule
- Brushing the dog's entire coat starting at the base of the hair.
- Getting a bath and brush out between grooms.
- Using a metal comb to insure proper brushing
- Using a hair dryer to dry the dog if it gets wet
- Taking off all collars, clothing and harnesses

*\*Please talk to our secretary to book a recurring appointment\**

### **What options do I have for my matted dog?**

- The kindest and pain free way to remove matting is to have them shaved
- If the dog is not entirely matted the groomer can spot shave only the matted areas and leave the rest of the coat the desired length
  - *This is at the groomer's discretion & is also a \$20-\$50 charge.*
- Dematting at home using a matt splitter and conditioning spray
- In some cases the groomer will
- be able to brush the matts out. This is for coats that have less than 5 matts in them.
  - *Dematting starts at \$1.50 a minute. If the groomer cannot demat your dog in one hour or if your dog cannot handle the dematting it needs to be shaved.*



**Please do not try to cut mats out of your dog at home without the help of a professional. This is likely to end in injuries to the animal.**

### **Why do the groomers want to shave my dog?**

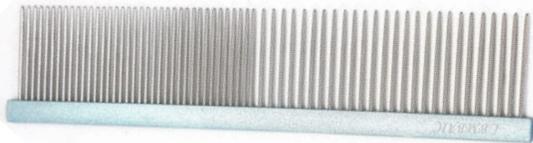
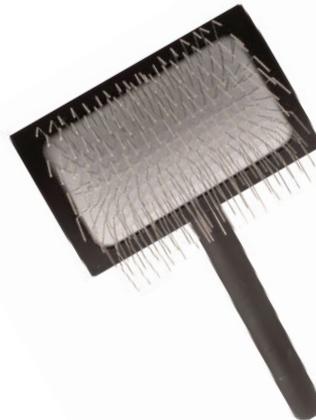
Doodles are taking over the pet grooming industry and an extremely high rate. Pet parents are not informed by breeders/shelters on how to keep their dogs mat free and it creates a lot of trouble for the groomer. A goldendoodle or a doodle of any kind is a VERY high maintenance dog. The groomer cannot be the only person taking care of your dog's coat, pet parents MUST start daily brushing habits! If we call you to tell you your dog is matting and we need to shave it is because we feel that we cannot safely dematt. Dematting a dog takes double to triple the amount of time and is extremely painful for the pet. A dog that continuously gets dematted is going to be distrustful of their groomer and it ruins the groomer and dog relationship. Your dog becomes scared of the groomer their hair is being tugged on, brushed, and pulled for hours. Dematting a dog is not fun for the dog or the groomer which is why we do not normally do that. Please trust us when we tell you this is what's best for your dog, we don't want to shave any dog anymore than you want him shaved.



## **Groomers Recommendations:**

### **Christensen Big K Dog Slicker Brush**

*Amazon.com \$73.99*



### **Greyhound Metal Comb**

*Amazon.com \$6.99-\$16.00*

### **Quicker Slicker detangling spray**

*Amazon.com \$18.00*



***Make sure to get a nice quality brush with long bristles  
Any metal comb and detangling spray will work.***

### **Helpful websites for coat care:**

[www.doodledoods.com](http://www.doodledoods.com)

[www.welovedoodles.com/grooming-advice/](http://www.welovedoodles.com/grooming-advice/)

[www.fivebarks.com](http://www.fivebarks.com)

[www.goldendoodleadvice.com](http://www.goldendoodleadvice.com)

There are also a lot of great videos on YouTube for brushing & coat care tips!