



## MATTED HAIR FAQ & CONSENT FORM

Please place  
client sticker  
here.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Client's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **CONSENT TO REMOVE MATS / DE-MATTING:**

Please read, initial and sign below.

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 (hot spots, 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 Laketown Animal Hospital to remove (shave down or spot shave) my pet's coat.

By my signature below, I agree to pay any and all charges for the grooming / shave down / spot shave process, and I release Laketown Animal Hospital 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 Laketown Animal Hospital. Revealed medical conditions may require veterinary care, and I will assume financial responsibility of any such expense.

Client initial for shave down \_\_\_\_\_ Client initial for spot shave / de-mat \_\_\_\_\_

Client Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

LAH staff: please scan into client's chart, and send a copy home with client.



## **Frequently Asked Questions About Mats / Matting:**

### **What is a mat?**

A mat is essentially a mass of tangled hair. However, mats may be comprised of burrs, barbs from plants, other debris (gum, tree sap, glue, paint, etc.). Unlike a human's hair, a dog's hair mats from the skin up, so it is important to comb from the skin out, not just brush the top layer.

### **What can happen to my dog'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, pests, skin irritations, lesions, 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 dog from drying properly but can also cause the mats to become worse. Pets must be properly brushed before getting wet (e.g. playing in the river or out in the rain). Without proper brushing before and after the bath, mats will only get worse. Mats soak up water like a sponge, causing the mats to become tighter, bigger, and closer to the skin.

Just cutting mats out is not recommended as the skin can become entangled in the mats resulting in an injured pet. The safest way to remove mats close to the skin is by shaving it out (usually with a #10 blade, which cuts the hair to 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch). This enables us to get under the mat completely.

### **Why can't we de-mat?**

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

### **I brush my dog almost every day and they are still matted; what am I doing wrong?**

Make sure when you are brushing your dog out that you are using the proper tools to get all the way down to the skin. Brushes you would use for a human's hair will not always work for your pup's hair. Also make sure that if you are using a slicker brush, that it is long enough to reach down to the skin. Small slicker brushes will not make it all the way down to the skin, thus only brushing the top layer of hair. Combs are best, usually in combination with a slicker brush because it allows you to comb entirely through the coat, from base to tip. A detangling spray is always good to use in conjunction with brushing and combing.

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

In some instances, shaving may be your only option. We have to be able to get under the mat in order to remove it properly. Sometimes, small areas can be spot shaved. Spot shaving is where we are able to save the body, but sensitive areas will have to be shaved (such as behind the ears, part of the tail, armpits, or under the belly). We will ALWAYS do what is best for your pet.