



# Grooming... How Often?

Stylish Fido Monthly Blog

## How Often Should My Dog be Professionally Groomed?



One question I am asked more than any other is "When should I book him in for next?"

Well the answer is "it depends..."

On what?

- Your dog's coat type (see next page)
- Your dog's lifestyle
- Your own lifestyle
- Your time commitments

Ask yourselves the following:

- How much time realistically can I spend brushing my dog? Everyday?
- Does my dog like his brushing time with me? Is it happy bonding time or a battle of wills?
- Does he spend a lot of time in muddy puddles, or in the river getting filthy?

\* Consider more frequent grooming if you don't brush a dog often that loves being muddy or gets wet regularly

---



# Grooming - Why Spend? What are the Benefits?

## Health Checks - For Free!



- I keep notes on changes to your dog, eg bumps, coat changes, seasons.
- I find lumps and bumps that can then be looked at by your vet, often before you have found them yourselves.
- I have found cysts, pre-cancerous lumps, fatty lumps, muscle masses, skin tags \*
- I can alert you to ticks and fleas if they are found, or evidence of them.
- I can clean your dogs ears and can alert to possible problems
- I have alerted owners to teeth problems before they have been aware themselves eg wobbly teeth or excess tartar.
- By checking your dogs nails and nail beds I have alerted owners to potential auto-immune diseases.
- Whilst grooming your dog I can see changes to skin and coat including skin irritations.

**\* NB - I cannot diagnose problems, but can alert to possible changes to your dog that I feel would benefit from a vet check.**

---



# Recommended times

Stylish Fido Monthly Blog

## Guidelines - Frequency of Professional Grooming



Cockerpoos, doodle type crosses	Every 6 - 8 weeks
Bichon	Every 4 weeks
Cairn	Every 12 - 14 weeks
Cavalier King Charles	Every 10 - 12 weeks
Cocker Spaniel	Every 10 - 12 weeks
Golden Retriever	Every 12 - 14 weeks
Lhasa Apso	Every 4 - 6 weeks
Maltese	Every 6 - 8 weeks
Pekingese	Every 6 - 12 weeks
Pomeranian	Every 12 - 16 weeks
Poodle (all sizes)	Every 4 - 6 weeks
Schauzner (all sizes)	Every 8 - 12 weeks
Scottish Terrier	Every 10 - 12 weeks
Shih Tzu	Every 4 - 6 weeks
Westie	Every 10 - 12 weeks
Yorkshire Terrier	Every 8 - 10 weeks



## Poodles, Doodles, Cockerpoos, Bichons, Cavapoos, Cavachons, Poochons etc

These wonderful dogs with their wool type coats, and all mixture of Poodles, Bichons and Cavalier crosses are fantastic pets that usually love getting involved in all aspects of doggy life including jumping in rivers, running around and getting into mischief.

Their wool coats which people love as hyperallergenic and non shedding are slightly misleading, as they do drop their coat, but the fur stays IN the coat, causing it to mat and become tangled and matted much quicker than other types of coat if not brushed regularly. These coats therefore require daily brushing with a slicker and a comb through to ensure the dead coat comes out and mats are not forming.

If you want a long fluffy curly coat you must be prepared to brush your dog daily.

Careful when you dry a wet coat that you pat it dry rather than rub it, as this will cause mats.

To keep a longer coat, grooming every 4 weeks would be recommended to ensure it is professionally cleaned and brushed out correctly.

If you want a short coat, then 6-8 weeks could be possible.



## Double Coated eg Husky, Retrievers

These beautiful fluffy dogs have two quite different coats.

Firstly an undercoat which is soft and downy and has two main functions - to keep it cool in summer and warm in winter. The soft coat is not waterproof, but is soft and insulating.

Secondly the outer coat is harsh and waterproof and primarily keeps water out of the undercoat and will also stop heat from getting to the skin in summer.

Because of these well designed characteristics, double coated breeds should never be clipped short as this destroys the ability of the dog to stay cool in summer and warm in winter.

These double coated fluff monsters typically shed all year around, but have a big moult of their undercoat twice a year, where if they are not brushed out/professionally groomed, then the old undercoat is trapped under the outercoat and this can cause skin irritations and again stop the ability of the coat to perform its cooling duties.

Therefore a professional groom twice a year is a must, but more often washing and de-shedding is extremely helpful to keep the coat in tip-top condition and the skin healthy.



## Terriers, Westies, Cockers, Spaniels, Schnauzers

These rough and tough band of dog breeds love to dig, often love a roll in something aromatic (!) and can come with a fair amount of fluff on legs and belly to catch all the mud and brambles on their daily walks.

Although typically easy coats to care for, they still need weekly brushing with slicker brushes and benefit from a regular wash and clip. For our Steyning muddy, river and sea walkers a regular clip or trim of feathers and belly fluff is highly recommended.

Recommend grooming every 6-10 weeks depending on lifestyle, length of coat etc.

## Terriers - hand stripping

Typically Border Terriers are the most common hand stripped dogs, but wire haired dachshund and other terriers can be hand stripped if the coat is appropriate.

Usually only un-neutered (entire) dogs and non-spayed bitches can be hand stripped, but some neutered ones hold their strippable coat too.

Once a dog has been clipped it is very unusual for a groomer to be able to go back to hand stripping, as usually the coat type is destroyed and the coat becomes soft and thick.

Hand stripping keeps the coat in the best condition for these terriers by pulling out by hand all the dead hair either twice a year or a few times a year, depending on the cycle of the coat. It should not be uncomfortable for the dog, if it is I would always suggest clipping your dog.



## Short coated, and silky coats eg Pugs, Shih Tzu's, Llasha's, Yorkies

All these coat types still need regular brushing and grooming to keep the coat from tangles and matting. Frequency of grooming will depend on the length of coat you want, how often you brush your dog and if your dog gets warm in the summer, you may need to vary the frequency or the length of coat.

Ideally every 4-8 weeks.