



Fido Files: Benefits of Professional Grooming

Many people think of grooming as esthetics alone, but it is a very important component to your pet's physical and mental well-being. A groomed pet is a happy and comfortable pet! The following are some other benefits to having your pet professionally groomed.

Prevents Painful and Expensive Matting

They look bad and more importantly they hurt too! Matted hair twists the skin making it very painful for your pet. Mats can also "suffocate" the skin causing irritation and they can also be an ideal home for bacteria, parasites, fungi, and other yuckies to flourish as well.

Often times if matting is very bad, it can be difficult or dangerous to remove it – even for a professional. Using scissors so close to the skin can be unsafe unless your pet has mastered the art of standing perfectly still. This means that your pet will likely need to be shaved and this isn't always the "style of choice". Clients sometimes ask us to brush out the matts; this can be very costly, but more important it's very painful for your pet. We often recommend a shave this time, and then better maintenance at home and more frequent visits to the salon to prevent a shave next time.

Groomed Nails save Hardwood and Furniture

You may be considering a de-clawing procedure to save your furniture (please don't!) but did you know that short nails can actually help prevent damage to your furniture? Also, most grooming shops will also offer a "soft claws" application service which are vinyl caps that are glued to your pets nails to prevent damage to flooring and furniture. A much more humane alternative to a de-clawing procedure!

Grooming gets your Pet used to being Handled

If you start grooming your pet at a young age, and he has positive experiences, it could set the stage for good behavior for home grooming and visits to the vet too!

Helps Reduce: Shedding, Hairballs, and Allergic Reactions in People

Your groomer has special tools to do a thorough removal of loose hair in your pet's coat, meaning there is less hair on your furniture at home! If your cat has long hair and is swallowing it while they groom themselves, they are more likely to get hairballs. And finally, the better condition your pet's coat is in, the less of a reaction there will be in people with allergies to pet hair and dander. Don't forget another VITAL component to a healthy coat is a high quality diet.

Early Detection of Lumps and Bumps

I consider myself a fairly diligent person when it comes to my pets, but just this morning my groomer found a hot spot AND the beginnings of an ear infection in my dog!



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Because grooming is so hands on, your groomer has the opportunity to find things that we might miss and early detection of certain lumps and bumps can be crucial to the long term health of our pets. This is why it is important for even your shorthaired dogs to frequent the salon.

Choosing a GREAT Groomer

My belief is that the key to finding a good groomer is finding one that works for both you and your pet. Does your pet prefer to be dried on his own in a crate away from handlers, or does he hate the crate and enjoy the hands on drying method? Does your pet have a hard time with the heavy traffic in some salons, or does he like the hustle and bustle? Is he ok with staying all day, or would he prefer to go home after his appointment? And, then there is the matter of the style. Are you happy with your stylists' haircuts?

In my opinion the one thing that should be of utmost importance across the board is that whomever you choose genuinely care about the well being of your pet, and that they do their best to make your pet as comfortable and safe as possible while they are in their care.

Holly Montgomery

Co-owner/Operator of Copperfield Tail Blazers

Special thanks to Cheryl Lorenzen and Debbie Arnold from the Tail Blazers' Dog Spa for their knowledgeable contribution to this article!

The info in this article in no way replaces regular veterinary care and advice given by a qualified veterinarian.