

Managing Thick Coats Safely in Warm Weather

Advice for New Groomers During Peak Summer Season

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Summer is one of the busiest and most challenging times of the year for groomers. As temperatures rise, pet parents often request shorter haircuts, and many dogs arrive with compacted undercoat, matting, or coats that have been exposed to pools, lakes, and outdoor activities. For new groomers entering the industry, this season can teach some of the most valuable lessons you'll ever learn.

One of the biggest mistakes I see newer groomers make is assuming that shaving every thick-coated dog is the answer to summer heat. As groomers, it is our responsibility to understand coat function and educate pet parents. Many double-coated breeds use their coat as insulation from both heat and cold. Breeds such as Huskies, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, and Malamutes often benefit more from proper deshedding and coat maintenance than a complete shave-down.

Learning when to shave and when to preserve the coat is one of the most important skills a groomer can develop. Every dog should be evaluated individually based on coat condition, health, lifestyle, and the pet parent's goals. If a coat is severely matted, a shorter trim may be the most humane option. However, when the coat is healthy and maintained, preserving coat integrity is often the best choice.

Another lesson I wish every new groomer understood is that preparation is everything. A beautiful groom begins long before the finishing shears come out. Proper bathing, thorough drying, brushing, and combing create the foundation for every successful haircut. When the prep work is rushed, the final groom will always show it.



Andis Large Firm
Slicker Brush





Summer is also the season when tool and blade management become especially important. During busy days, blades can heat up quickly. Groomers should regularly check blade temperatures, rotate blades when needed, and prioritize the comfort of the pet at all times. A few extra seconds spent checking equipment can prevent unnecessary discomfort and help create a safer grooming experience.

One thing I always tell newer groomers is that proper blade maintenance is just as important as proper grooming technique. Regularly oiling your blades helps reduce friction, keeps blades running cooler, extends blade life, and creates a smoother grooming experience for both the groomer and the pet.

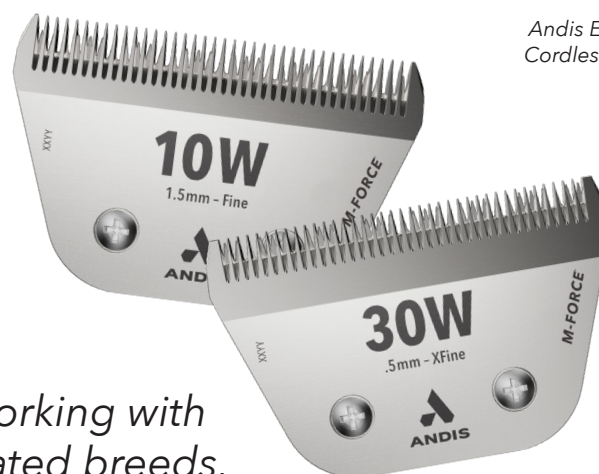
I would also encourage groomers to routinely inspect and replace their clipper blade drives as needed. During peak summer months, many groomers encounter heavily impacted or matted coats, which can place additional stress

on clippers and blade drives. Replacing worn blade drives can help maintain clipper performance, improve cutting efficiency, and reduce unnecessary strain on equipment.

When working with thick-coated breeds, patience is one of your greatest tools. Rushing through a deshed service often leaves coat behind and can lead to uneven results. Taking the time to properly remove undercoat, thoroughly dry the pet, and evaluate the coat before clipping will produce better outcomes for both the dog and the groomer.



Andis EMERGE®
Cordless Clipper



Andis M-Force® Blades

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If I could give one piece of advice to every new groomer, it would be this: never stop learning. Every dog that walks through your door will teach you something. Attend educational events, ask questions, learn from experienced groomers, and remain open to new techniques. Confidence comes with time, but growth comes from education and consistency.

At the end of the day, our job is about much more than creating a nice haircut. We are responsible for the

health, comfort, and well-being of every pet we groom. By understanding coat types, practicing safe grooming techniques, and continuing to educate ourselves, we can help pets stay comfortable and healthy throughout the hottest months of the year.

Pro Tool Recommendations:

► **Andis ProClip 5-in-1 Clipper**

Excellent for detail work, sanitary trims, face and feet work, and versatile grooming needs with five blade lengths built into one blade.

► **Andis EMERGE® Cordless Clipper**

Lightweight, powerful, and ideal for all-day grooming during busy summer schedules.

► **Andis M-Force® Blades**

Designed to cut through dense coats efficiently while helping reduce heat buildup and providing a smooth finish.

► **Andis Large Firm Slicker Brush and Steel Comb**

Essential tools for coat preparation, deshedding, and ensuring coats are thoroughly brushed and combed before clipping.



Andis ProClip
5-In-1 Clipper

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