

# MAINTAIN YOUR TOOLS!

with Andis Global Education Manager Nicole Kallish

Clippers and blades are some of the most important tools of the grooming trade. Purchasing them is an investment in your career and keeping them maintained should always be a top priority. Check out these tips to help you keep your tools in tip-top shape for years to come.

## **Cord Maintenance**

When storing corded clippers, keep the cord neatly and loosely wound to prevent the cord or clipper from getting damaged. When using a corded clipper, do not leave the cord exposed where it might get stepped on, chewed on or rolled over. If you notice any exposed wires in the cord, discontinue use immediately and replace the cord.

## **Blade Sharpening Recommendations**

**Sharpening Frequency:** A general rule of thumb would be to sharpen at least once every two months. Note, however, that the more you groom, the more you should sharpen.

**When to Sharpen:** If the blade starts to pull, not cut or take several more passes before the hair comes off, it might be time to sharpen the blades.

**When to Retire a Blade:** Your blade can withstand several sharpenings during its life. Signs that it might be time to retire a blade include missing teeth or the blade running too hot. Proper care prolongs the life of your blades. Note: if a tooth is missing, replace the blade immediately as grooming with a blade that has missing teeth is dangerous.

## **Blade Drive Replacement**

Blade drive replacement typically occurs every two to four months based on volume, cleanliness and types of coats you're clipping. Signs that your blade drive might need replacing include lines on the pet, not cutting as clean as before or blade dragging in the coat. This inexpensive replacement part can really inject new life into your clipper.

## **And always...**

Clean, disinfect and oil your blades after every groom to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria and ensure long blade-life!

