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Ooodles of Doodles: Understanding Coat Types

with Andis Educator Diane Betelak

Doodles come in many different coat types - wiry, curly, or soft and fleecy. Knowing the differences between each type and how to care for them will help you educate owners on why their Doodle needs regular grooming.

Wiry

Wiry coats are the easiest to manage because a deshedding rake can be pulled through the coat to remove the dead coat without breaking any healthy guard hairs. Regular grooming will help remove the dead coat, leaving owners with less hair in their home and a neat and tidy pet. Doodles with this coat type can go the longest between appointments - 6-8 weeks.

Pro Tip: Hold the skin taut while pulling a deshedding rake through the coat. This will help prevent the skin from sliding along with the muscles underneath so you can thoroughly remove the dead coat.

Curly

Curly coat types are a little more work to manage because, if not maintained regularly, the coat can get matted like a poodle coat. Curly-coated Doodles do best with a professional groom every 4-6 weeks.

Pro Tip: A good shampoo and blow-out prior to grooming will make the coat stand so you can get a nice and even trim.

Soft and Fleecy

Soft and fleecy coat types are the most difficult to maintain because they mat more easily. The soft undercoat will tangle with the guard hairs and cause mats, especially in the areas where the dog's movement causes hairs to rub (armpits, loin, etc.). I recommend owners bring their pet in for a groom every 4 weeks.

Pro Tip: When clipping this type of coat, I've found that the blade will leave "track marks" due to the thick undercoat. You can eliminate these marks by going over them with your clipper again and set at a high speed.

