



Intermediate Stylist Technician

Study Guide

***Not a required Level to obtain Level 2
or Master Certification***

www.CanProPetStylists.ca

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All the information presented in this guide is for educational and resource purposes only. The medical and health information is not to be used in lieu of veterinarian care or advice.

Proper handling of animals to avoid injury to both groomer and the pets should be practiced at all times. This educational guide is to be used solely as a resource guide.

This guide was prepared for the
Canadian Professional Pet Stylists
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Intermediate Salon Tech Study Hints

You have decided to further your skills and education in Grooming by taking CPPS's Intermediate Salon Technician Written and Practical exams. In order to help you along in your journey we have put together an educational guide that is to be used with "The Groomer's Guide to Pet First Aid" by Boyd Harrell, DVM and "The Theory of 5" by Melissa Verplunk CMG.

You will have to answer 100 questions that will be made up of true/false, fill in the blank, and multiple choice answers.

Your practical exam will be a non-breed based utility trim that can range from 3.2 mm (7F) to 2 inches (clipper combs or scissors) on the body with the dog pre-bathed, dry/fluffed, and ears, nails, pads and sanitary completed. The Certifier will be looking for balance of head to tail, correct use of equipment, even coat (lack of clipper/comb marks) and safe/professional handling of the dog. The dog once finished will contain no knots, nicks or abrasions (caused by the Groomer), will be clean and a good representation of a utility trim. Legs can be left longer than body coat to hide conformation issues.

A double coated dog is not acceptable for certification ie. Golden Retriever, Pomeranian, etc.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact CPPS by visiting

www.CanProPetStylists.ca

LOOP RESTRAINTS

Loops (sometimes referred to as a noose) are used for the pet's ultimate safety on a table. Without a loop to keep a small dog on your table, if it were to jump off, it is the equivalent to falling 2 stories off a building depending on the height of your table! Also, when using a loop never leave your dog unattended on a table. If you have a client dog that has throat or collapsing trachea issues slip one front leg through the loop to relieve pressure. If correctly placed a grooming loop is no different than putting a leash and collar on your dog. Waist ties should be used with extreme caution due to the constant pressure that they place on canine kidneys. It is far safer for dogs to be trained to stand rather than resort to using waist ties. Even wide or padded waist ties still apply pressure slowing down blood flow to the abdomen. Dogs with intestinal or kidney issues should never have a waist loop used on them. Senior dogs may require added security of a waist loop, to prevent falls or help with dementia issues. Groomers must use their discretion with all animals in their care as every situation can vary



Elderly Nails

As dogs age their nails can become thick and brittle. Cautioning owners to keep up on nail trims must be done to avoid irritating arthritis by hyper extension caused by long nails. Dremmeling or filing nails down weekly will help gently and effortlessly push quicks back without the need for painful nail blunting done by vets.



Normal Toes



Long Toes



Distorted Long Toes

When toe nails are allowed to become too long, stress and strain happens not just at the foot but up through the pastern. The natural arch is lost and arthritis can become an issue.

MEDICAL ISSUES AND SHAVING

Post Clipping Alopecia (PCA)

Post-clipping alopecia is the failure to regrow hair for months after clipping, usually after surgery or grooming. It has also been observed that alopecia in some dogs after clipping for intradermal skin tests or application of Fentanyl patches. It is most common in Nordic double coated dogs such as Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Keeshonds and Samoyeds, as well as in German Shepherds, Chow Chows and Labrador Retrievers.

The area over the back and rump is most commonly affected, and has a "just clipped" appearance, even months later. The reason the hair fails to regrow is unknown; it may be due to vasoconstriction of blood vessels in the skin that occurs with decreased skin surface temperature from loss of hair coat insulation after clipping. Histopathology shows a predominance of catagen hair follicles. Total hair regrowth may take six to 24 months, although most animals regrow hair within 12 months. Initially the regrown hair may be darker than normal and contain more undercoat.

Differential diagnoses that should be ruled out with appropriate laboratory testing include causes of endocrine alopecia such as hyperadrenocorticism, hypothyroidism, and sex hormone imbalance. Massage, hydrotherapy with warm water, and covering the alopecic area with a sweater to increase skin temperature and blood flow to the skin, may stimulate hair regrowth in some cases.

Black Skin Disease

"Black skin disease" is not actually a disease, but rather is a phrase used to refer to a form of hormonally-influenced, non-inflammatory, progressive, symmetrical hair loss and skin hyperpigmentation in dogs. The term for this condition preferred by breeders and veterinarians – especially veterinary dermatologists - is "Alopecia X." Alopecia simply means hair loss in areas where it normally is present. A number of other names are used as well, including adrenal sex hormone imbalance, growth hormone responsive alopecia, adult-onset growth hormone deficiency, coat funk, congenital adrenal hyperplasia-like-syndrome, wooly coat syndrome, follicular dysplasia and pseudo-Cushing's disease. Another term is "hair cycle arrest." Alopecia X is a form of patterned baldness, which means that affected dogs lose hair symmetrically on both sides of their body. Typically, hair loss is followed by darkening of the balding skin.

Causes of Black Skin Disease in Dogs

Little is known about this condition or its cause. Factors such as obesity, hormonal imbalances, allergies and genetics have all been suggested as contributors. One theory is that affected dogs have a genetic predisposition to some sort of hormonal imbalance, which somehow affects the function of cells at the level of the hair follicle. Another hypothesis is that there is some inherited defect in the normal hair growth cycle. It may be that Alopecia X is not a single disease at all but rather a combination of several, making diagnosis and treatment that much more difficult.

Preventing Black Skin Disease

Preventing Alopecia X is not realistic at this time, because the cause of the condition is so poorly understood. Certainly, weight management can remove obesity as a contributing factor. Because stress seems to exacerbate the signs of Alopecia X, owners should do their best to remove stressors from their dogs' environment. Castration or spaying, dietary management and other hormonal or environmental management protocols may help to relieve the effects of stress and thereby reduce the hair loss and pigmentation changes associated with this disorder.

Special Notes

Alopecia X does not appear to affect a dog's health. It seems to be a purely cosmetic issue for owners of affected animals, and benign neglect is often the recommended "treatment" of choice. Other conditions can be confused with Alopecia X. Currently, there are no medical tests to definitively diagnose this disorder. A veterinarian must rule out a number of other problems, particularly hypothyroidism and hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's disease), before concluding that Alopecia X is the cause of symmetrical baldness. This is called making a diagnosis by exclusion.

CLIPPER BURN/RASH

Often referred to as 'clipper burn', it is actually an irritation of the skin. Sensitive skin, dull clippers, pushing too hard, misalignment of blades, dry blades, and hot blades or a lack of deep pigment can all be causes.

Remember that a blade should always be flat to the skin and clippers should be held like a pencil in your hand. This prevents digging and clippers 'bites' from putting the blade right into the skin.

Choose your blade length carefully; a Poodle face can look just as nice with a 10 blade if you know the dog is not done regularly or you have no history as to how the dog might react. Don't run a 50 blade backwards on the thin, sensitive folds of the throat. We know that using any blade backwards will make it two sizes shorter than the stated length.

Refrain from clipping a light coloured dog with pink skin too closely; this will have a greater chance of irritation. Also a matted dog will be more at risk of 'Clipper Burn' due to the irritation of the skin already. Warn Owners and make sure that they are well aware that irritation is a very possible reaction. If you did not know that the dog was so severely matted, phone the Owner and inform them, so that there are no surprises when they pick up the dog.



Brush Burn/Rash

Similar to clipper burn, except caused by over brushing the same area until abrasions occur. Brush burn can also happen when dogs either lack pigment or are a fair colour. Red, Apricot and cream poodles can be more susceptible to brush burn/rash than a black poodle or white poodle with excellent pigment. Owners should always be made aware if matting is so bad that even with careful monitoring brush burn may be an issue due to already irritated skin. However it is still caused by a Groomer, so you need to be aware of each dog's particular needs and sensitivities.

Matting

Many Owners will try and tell you that the matting has happened within the past couple of days or that they fully brushed out the dog the night before, yet if you were so inclined, you would be able to pick up the dog with your comb because the matting is so bad.

Show the Owner before you start working on the dog:

- Grab a comb or brush – explain that brushing needs to be done in a quiet area, when the Owner is not rushed.
- Go over with a slicker brush first. Break apart an area where they can see down to the skin, then brush out a small strip. This is called 'Line by line'

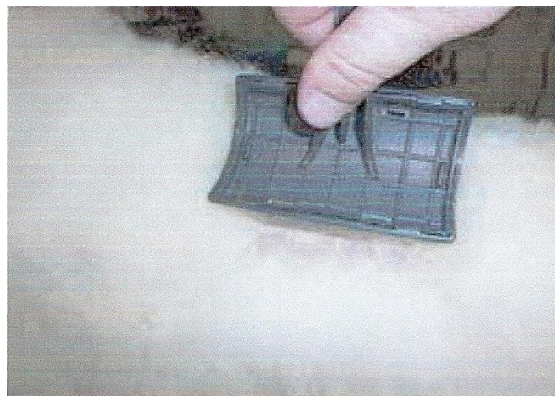


photo by Angela Gibert

- Once you have brushed through a section, show them how to use a comb. Let them know that the comb "will keep them honest", as it catches the smaller knots that the slicker missed.

If the matting is bad enough skin tenting will begin. This happens when the coat tightens to a point where it draws the skin up into the matt. This is why it is extremely dangerous when Owners try to cut out mats as they can cut their dogs. These wounds will appear in the shape of almonds or eye shaped.

Finding debris and wounds, is also a real problem when a dog has not been tended to on a regular basis. This is not only hard on the dog, but can also be dangerous to you and your equipment. Sticks, rocks, thorns and metal can be caught up in the coat. Make sure that you can see where you are about to clip or at the very least feel with your fingers. Once you have exposed an area, you will be better able to landmark problem areas. You may also find wounds, abrasions, warts, lumps, foreign material and other such issues. Keep any items that may be found in the coat as well as any scabs that are removed from old wounds to show to the owners. Take pictures of and document everything that is found for your records. The photos of the problems in and under the coat and on the skin can be shown to the owners as well so that they can understand the problems encountered in grooming their dog.

PROS VS CONS OF SHAVING OFF

You want to give your client the best service you can while making the pets in your care comfortable, safe and happy. To help Owners make the most informed choice for their lifestyle and pet, share these pros and cons with them.

A Utility trim may save time in brushing, but add time and cost with products that may be needed like sunscreen and insect repellent.

Shaving off a double coat will not stop shedding and will damage the coat, but a well maintained coat that has had the entire dead coat removed will shed less over the same period of time.

Certain wiry coats will lose texture and coat colour if clipped. Stripping might be the option that you want to let owners know about as it reduces skin issues, maintains texture and deep rich colours. Stripping is also an extra service that you can offer within your salon.

Some of the pets that we see may not have the best conformation and taking them too tight exaggerates their unattractive body structure. Warn clients that taking clippers to badly deformed legs can also be painful to the dog during clipping, if they have chosen a tighter blade. Scissoring tightly may be an easy solution as you can allow a dog to be comfortable on your table while hiding conformation issues with a bit of coat.

TIPS FOR A SMOOTHER TRIM

There are many quick and simple ways to give your clients a very smooth and polished Utility style trim that will allow for the minimum of maintenance. Here are a few key points that will help with producing a smoother trim:

- Lightly brush hair up with your slicker
- Use a longer blade backwards
- Use finishing blades, not skip-tooth blades
- Clip with the natural lay of the coat (Diagram 1.1)
- Watch for cowlicks
- Hold Clippers at an angle like a pencil (Diagram 1.2)
- Thinning shears will help erase any clipper lines
- After clipping go over with scissors for a polished effect
- A wet towel, well wrung out and wiped over a dogs back will remove any loose hair and dander

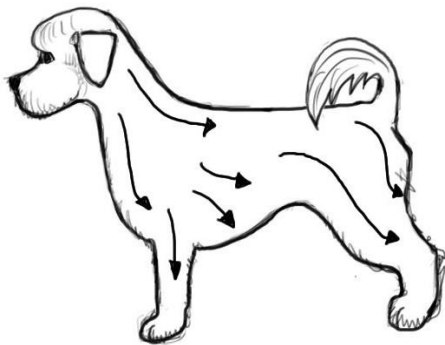


Diagram 1.1



Diagram 1.2

SKIN

The skin guards against dehydration by preventing fluid loss; it protects the dog from exposure to the weather and provides follicles for hair growth. It is tough, elastic and is moist on the inside and relatively dry on the outside. It helps regulate body temperature through the blood vessels and reduces exposure to extreme cold by a muscular action that fluffs the hair and traps heated air next to the body. The skin protects dogs from the ultraviolet rays of the sun by providing a foundation for the coat and by producing melanin to colour the hair and skin.

The skin is comprised of the Epidermis, Dermis and Hypodermis layers.¹

Epidermis: Is the outermost layer of skin. This layer protects the body from excessive loss of fluids; it is without any nervous structures and is constantly replacing its cells (epithelial). The epidermis contains a muscle called the Arrector pili muscle, this smooth muscle, when constricted causes the hair to stand erect, and the phenomenon is called piloerection. This can occur in response to cold; by increasing the air space between the hairs. This acts as a type of insulation. It may also occur in times of fear or aggression, raising the hair on the back and neck (as in “raising his hackles”). An inactivity of this muscle can be responsible for a reduction of oils being dispersed through the skin causing brittle coat and dry skin. In contrast, an over activity of this muscle, can often cause pressure on the glands and result in oily skin & coat.²

Melanin: in the skin acts as a natural sunscreen which absorbs ultraviolet light. This process, which is known as tanning, affords increased protection against sunburn.³ The most common tumor caused by overexposure to the sun is *squamous cell carcinoma*.

Dermis: Under the epidermis is a deeper layer of skin called the dermis. The dermis contains blood vessels, which bring oxygen & nutrients to the dog’s skin & nerves. These vessels also help maintain body temperature; when the dog is hot, the vessels release heat from the body and into the environment by increasing blood flow to the skin. Consequently when the dog is cold, blood flow from the skin is decreased thus keeping the heat in the body. Collagen, also contained in the dermis, is like rubber with the elastin cells providing flexibility to the skin. The Dermis contains the hair follicles, blood vessels, nerves & sebaceous glands. Hair follicles come up from the dermis and into the epidermis and connect to the upper part of the hair follicle by a duct called the Sebaceous gland.⁴

Hypodermis: although not technically a part of the skin, this is the layer of connective tissue that acts as an anchor attaching the dermis to muscle and bone. It also contains larger blood vessels and nerves than those found in the dermis. This is the layer also, where footpad fat will be found. It has a lower freezing point than most other body fat and remains “springy” even when a dog is running in the snow.⁵

GLANDS

¹ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

² Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

³ http://www.ehow.com/list_6615805_causes-skin-discoloration-dogs.html

⁴ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

⁵ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

A dog's skin provides fluids to three types of glands; the eccrine gland & the apocrine gland.

Apocrine Gland: Dogs only produce sweat on areas not covered with fur, such as the nose and paw pads. They do have sweat glands called apocrine glands associated with every hair follicle on their body. The exact function of these glands is not known, but they may produce pheromones or chemical signals for communication with other dogs. It is believed that these sweat secretions produce an individual odor signal that is recognizable by other dogs.⁶

Eccrine Gland: Dogs also have sweat glands on their feet. When these glands are active, they leave the nose and paw pads slightly moist and help these specialized skin features maintain their functional properties.⁷

Sebaceous Gland: The function of this gland is to provide lubrication and waterproofing of the hairs. The gland secretes a substance called 'sebum' which gives the hair its sheen and acts as a lubricant for the skin and hair. Anything which affects the secretions of the sebaceous glands – disease, drugs, etc.- will be reflected in the look and condition of the hair coat.⁸

HAIR

Hair serves many functions. The most obvious is to serve as insulation but it can also be used to provide camouflage, sex recognition (as in manes on male lions) and even for social purposes such as an aggressive display as when a dog's "hackles rise" or a cat elevates their fur on the approach of a dog.⁹

The hair grows *from* the hair follicle, not out of it. The hair follicle and the hair it produces are part of the epidermal regions of the skin. Hairs don't grow "through" the skin, they grow from it.¹⁰

Compound Follicles: A compound follicle is one from which more than one hair emerges. Typically there is a large main "Guard Hair" and several smaller "Wool Hairs". All the hairs usually emerge from the same opening on the surface. The guard hair provides a waterproof top layer and the curly undercoat, made of wool hairs, an insulation barrier against the skin.¹¹

⁶ www.wikipedia.org/wiki/dog_odor

⁷ www.wikipedia.org/wiki/dog_odor

⁸ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

⁹ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

¹⁰ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

¹¹ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

HAIR GROWTH

The hair itself is dead but is produced by living cells. They are part of the Keratinization system of the epidermal region. Hair growth in dogs is related to seasonal change, initiated by the length of daylight and it responds by undergoing a cycle of shedding and regrowth. The genetic structure of the dog according to its breed will also determine the length and growing cycle of the hair.¹²

The cycle of hair growth involves these three of the five stages:

Anagen – during which the hair grows in length by the addition of cells to the bottom end¹³

Catagen – the stage of quiescence and cessation of new hair cell production. The hair in catagen may (and usually does) detach itself from the underlying matrix which produced it and be held in the follicle simply by friction. Eventually something wakens the follicle from its dormancy, and it enters into the transitional stage of

Telogen – during which it renews itself for activity and makes the changeover back to the active anagen stage again.¹⁴ During the Telogen phase, the follicle becomes dormant. A process occurs, the dormant follicle reawakens and the process starts over, going back to the Anagen phase. It then moves to the exogen phase where the hair falls out, or sheds, and then begins a regrowth and the beginning of the Anagen stages again.

Hair follicles can be in the Anagen, catagen or telogen cycle at any given time. This timing and ratio of the different cycles will determine the regularity in which hair is shed, the length of the dogs coat and the presence or the absence of an undercoat. Non-shedding dogs (i.e.: poodles) have hair follicles that are mostly in a state of Anagen, which limits shedding. The hairless dogs (i.e.: Xoloitzcuintli) have hair follicles that are usually in a state of Telogen. Other dogs may fall in between.

The hair shaft is what most concerns groomers since this is the part we brush, comb & clip. The shaft is divided into three parts:

1: **Cuticle**: is the outermost part of the shaft. It is a hard shingle-like layer of overlapping cells. It is formed from dead cells which form scales that give the hair shaft strength and do the best job of providing protection for it.¹⁵

2: **Cortex**: Make up about 90% of the bulk of a strand of hair and is made up of very densely packed cells. This is what provides each hair its strength & texture. It meets the outer layer (cuticle) to save it from damage.¹⁶

3: **Medulla**: this is the inner core of the hair shaft and is made up of cells less densely packed than of the cortex.¹⁷ Its prime function seems to be to provide material for length & growth.

¹² Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

¹³ Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Histology by Dr. Thomas Caceci

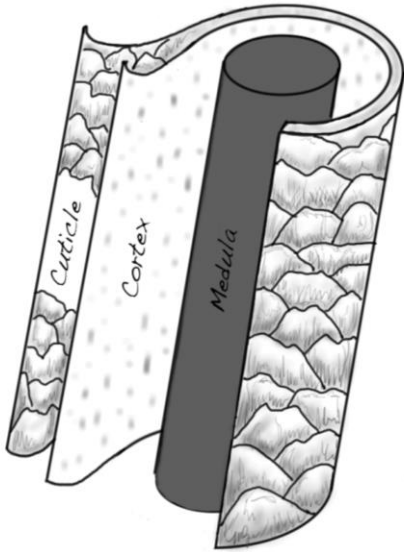
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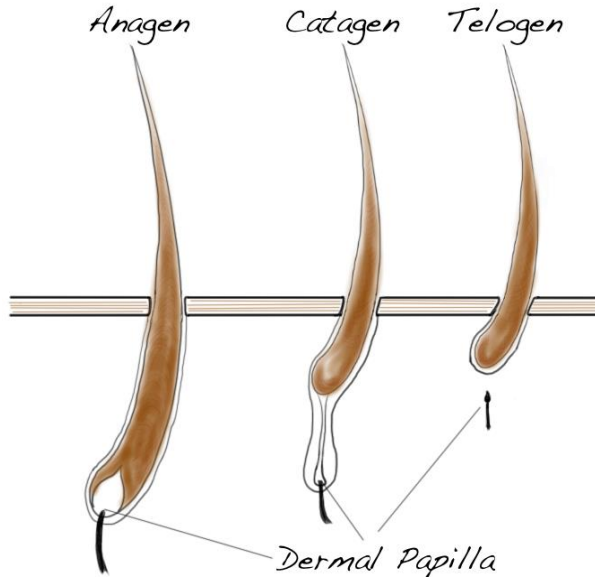
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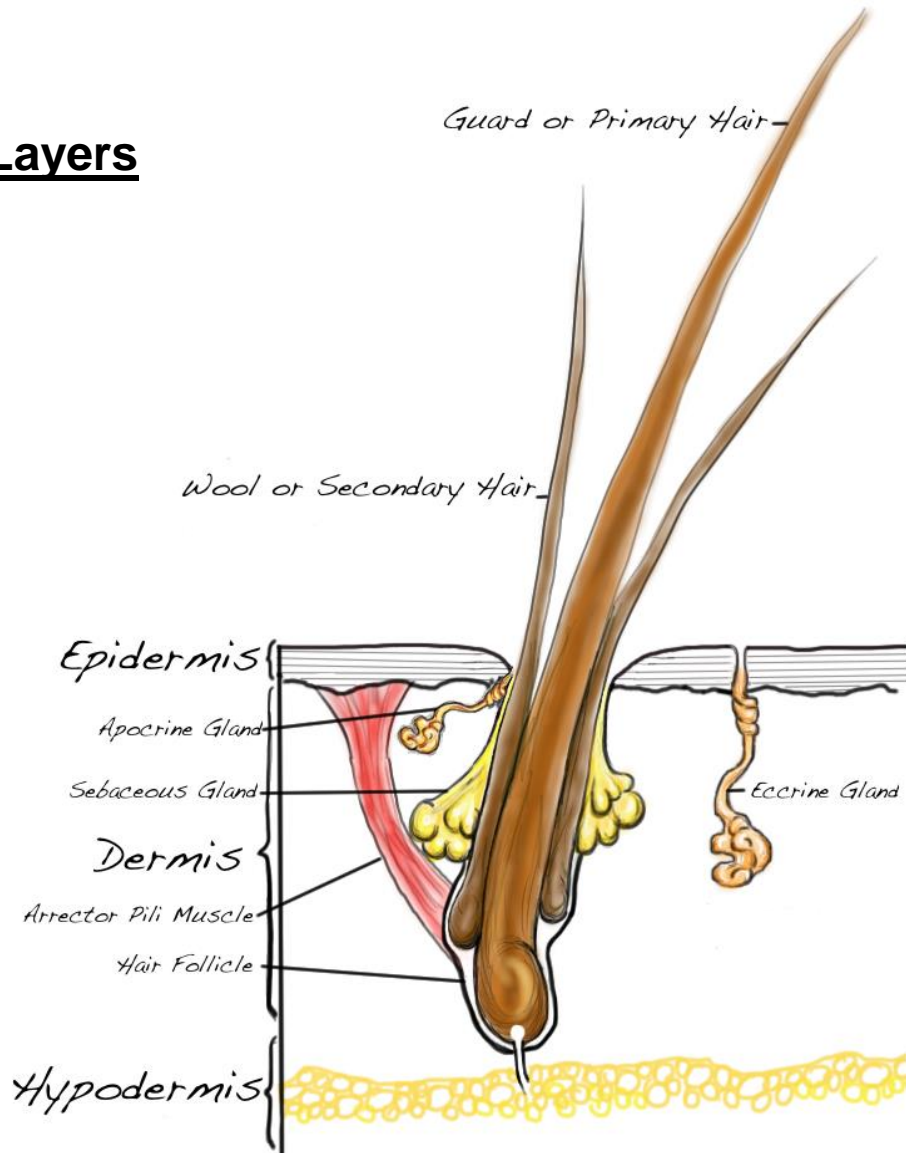
Hair Shaft



Hair Growth



Skin Layers



COATS

LENGTH OF HAIR

The active growing stage (Anagen) of the hair can be a few days to many years. Hair length can vary on the same dog. Short hair has short anagen stages while longer hair has longer anagen stages.

For example: Dobermans have short hair cycles
Collies have short cycles on the face, long cycles on the body
Lhasa Apsos have long hair growth cycles over their entire body.

COAT TEXTURE

Hair grows in bundles from a common hair follicle. The bundle contains 1 coarse primary hair and up to 15 softer secondary hairs.

Soft: More primary hairs than secondary, secondary hairs are thinner, finer and lighter weight.

Mixed: More balance mixture of primary and secondary hairs.

The type of coat will depend on the thickness of the hairs and the dominance of primary and secondary hairs.

Harsh: Primary hairs are dominant and tend to be thick and coarse with the secondary hairs small in number. For example: Harsh Coated terriers.

COAT TYPES

Smooth Coat: A smooth coat is sleek and shiny and will give the appearance in some breeds as to be covered with skin and not fur. These types of dogs require nothing more than a good brushing on a regular basis to remove any dirt or shed hair. Grooming can be done with a good bristle brush. Start at the head, following the hair grown and work back towards the tail using just enough pressure to stimulate the skin. Extra care is needed on the dog's belly and undersides. Example of Smooth Coat Dogs: Basset, Greyhound, Bulldog, Rottweiler

Medium Coat: A medium coat is usually longer than one inch but still looks quite short. They are relatively easy to groom and generally don't get extremely dirty or develop mats. Some may require an occasional trim on the neck, ears, face or feet but usually a good weekly brushing and a monthly grooming session will suffice. Examples of Medium Coat Dogs: Akita, Brittany, Golden Retriever, Saint Bernard.

Long Coat: The long coated dogs can be divided into three groups: Long Parted Coat, Long Coated Small Dogs and Long Coated Large Dogs. All three categories require extra combing to make sure that the hair is thoroughly groomed to remove all tangles and mats. Examples: Long

Parted – Maltese, Shih Tzu; Long Coated Small – Havanese, Pomeranian; Long Coated Large – Newfoundland, Samoyed.

Wire Hair/Broken Coat: Wire or Broken Coats are not supposed to be soft and silky. They are rough and bristly. The best method of grooming a wire coat is either taking down the coat which means plucking the dog's entire coat at one time, or rolling the coat which means plucking small amounts of hair at a time. Examples of Wire/Broken Coat: Brussels Griffon, Border Terrier.

Wavy Coat: The wavy coat is characterized by curls, which is why it is often referred to as the curly coat. This type of coat tangles and knots easily and has a tendency to become dry. Examples of Wavy Coat: Bichon Frise, Poodle ¹⁸

SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER PRODUCT INGREDIENTS

All shampoos & conditioners have a pH factor (the measurements to indicate whether a substance is either acid or alkaline), 7 is neutral lower acid, higher is alkaline. A dogs pH average is 7, humans is 5, so canine hair is more alkaline. Shampoos & Conditioners do not penetrate the shaft of the hair. They only make it more pliable & eye catching.

Ingredients

Reading shampoo labels can be confusing, to say the least. Shampoos can contain chemicals with polysyllabic names and you have no idea what those chemicals are or what they may do. Often times you have to rely on what the shampoo says it will do on the label and that may or may not be the truth.

Here are some of the most important things to look for when choosing a shampoo.

Avoid shampoos with the following ingredients:

- Sodium Laureth/Lauryl Sulfate — this is what makes your shampoo foam up and is called a surfactant. In recent years SLS has come under scrutiny for being too irritating and damaging to the hair follicle, causing skin damage and more. Most human salon and grocery store brands still have some form of this surfactant in their formulas.
- Tar — a known cancer-causing agent
- Co Co Amide — a known cancer causing agent in animals
- Propylene Glycol — a form of mineral oil that retains moisture in the coat; can be a skin irritant. Botanicals and herbs often come in a base of propylene glycol or butylene glycol which is then put into your shampoo. Little by little raw ingredient manufacturers are offering other alternatives like glycerin to use as a base for the herbs.
- Mineral Oil, Methyl Paraben and Propyl Paraben — may cause allergic reactions

¹⁸ www.petuniversity.com

- Ethyl Alcohol (found in synthetic fragrances used in some shampoos) — may cause allergic reactions and dry out your dog's coat
- Parabens- are one of the most commonly used preservatives and certainly the most controversial. In recent years concerns have been raised that parabens could cause allergic reactions and disrupt hormonal systems. The theory is that even though any given product contains extremely small amounts of parabens, over time they may build up to toxic levels because they are found in so many of the products we use each day. Parabens, including methyl-, butyl-, ethyl-, and propyl-, may cause skin irritation, and there is concern that parabens may be linked to the development of breast cancer. Of course some form of preservative is necessary so nasty bacteria, mold and fungi don't take over products. (Any product that has water in it has the ability to grow mold very quickly).

Look for shampoos that contain ingredients or statements like the following:

- Look for surfactants (which make shampoos foam) like cocamidopropyl betaine which is an exceptionally mild coconut based surfactant which does not irritate skin.
- Soap-free or low-lathering
- Vitamins A, D, E
- Herbs like comfrey and calendula which help soothe skin irritations.
- Antibacterial agents such as tea tree oil (that has been formulated for pet use) and Neem
- Sodium PCA — derived from vegetable sources, a naturally-occurring skin component that softens and hydrates skin
- Glycerin (instead of Propylene Glycol).
- Citric acid and Potassium sorbate are preservatives that are safe and FDA approved.

Too Harsh

Some shampoos for dogs contain harsh detergents and chemicals. They may strip all of the natural oils from your dog's coat, which on average maintains an approximate **level 7 pH**. One of the most important issues when choosing a shampoo is what kind of surfactant the shampoo has. A surfactant is the **surface acting agent** in a shampoo. They allow the shampoo to spread and interact with the water when you bathe him and to strip the oil and dirt from your dog's coat. If you use a surfactant that is too harsh, such as Sodium Laureth Sulfate, it will remove too much of the oil from your dog's coat when it washes out the dirt. This will damage your dog's coat and leave it looking dry and harsh. The natural oils in a dog's coat are good for the coat and protect it from damage so you want a shampoo that will only wash out the dirt and excess oils. You should choose shampoos that are free of Sodium Laureth Sulfate both for yourself and for your dog.

Many shampoos that contain Sodium Laureth Sulfate (or SLS) are very high lathering shampoos. They can be more like detergents than shampoos. Unfortunately, high lathering shampoos can also be irritating to your dog's skin. Look for shampoos that are soap-free or low lathering and which do not contain SLS. These shampoos are easier to rinse out and less likely to irritate your dog's skin.

Some shampoos even contain chemicals with known carcinogens such as tar, which is found in tar-based dandruff shampoos. It's also found in artificial dyes and fragrances. These are shampoos that you want to steer clear of when you're choosing a shampoo for your dog.

Dish washing detergents are very harsh and can damage some coats and skin. They are not specially formulated for use on pets. Any allergic reactions would be the liability of the groomer using them. If it does not state on the label that it has been approved for use on pets, do not use it,

PRODUCT SHELF LIFE

Like many consumer products, there are certain salon products that are best used within a certain time period. The shelf life acts in the best interest of a product for its maximum effectiveness and safety.

Stability in Stasis

Creators of shampoos and Conditioners are both artists and scientists. They must be certain that the formulation of their product aides in its stability. An unstable formulation in time will separate by ingredient. Both environment and specific gravity are key factors in stability. As the shelf life of a product marches on, temperature changes and exposure to air separation may occur. Gravity also affects the life of a product as the heaviest ingredients will make their way to the bottom.

Ingredient selection

Animal proteins when used in a high volume are less stable than some other conditioning ingredients. Formulas containing both oil and water will not maintain their consistency because the two ingredients will separate.

AVERAGE SHELF LIFE OF SALON SHAMPOOS

Shampoo – average shelf life – 1-2 years

Well formulated shampoos and lightly conditioned shampoos have relatively long shelf lives. However the more conditioning ingredients used, the less stable the product. This lends to the shelf life of 'detangling' or 'de-matting' shampoos to be decreased to 6 months to a year.

Conditioners – average shelf life – 1-2 years

Conditioners with no cleansing qualities are fairly stable and keep to a 1-2 year shelf life as long as they do not contain ingredients that are organic, such as animal proteins. These types of ingredients increase the likelihood of bacteria growth which will greatly reduce shelf life.

Oils/Crèmes/Pomades – average shelf life 1-2 years

100% oils will have a longer shelf life (2 years) then crèmes (as short as 6 months) that have emulsified ingredients (oil mixed with water) due to the separation issues. Also, any of these products having mixed animal proteins or organic ingredients with high protein levels will be more prone to separation and bacteria.

Finishing Products – average shelf life 2 years

Most salon products have a relatively long shelf life, depending on formulations as they do not contain natural or organic oils and proteins, which need no emulsifying. Sprays also usually contain an alcohol type base, which debilitates growth of bacteria. However these are the products that will gain viscosity if over exposed to heat or air, making the product unsafe for use.

Proper Storage of Products

Generally products need to be stored at room temperature, away from direct sunlight or extreme cold. Unless labeled, Salon products should never be refrigerated or frozen. If you are using products in window displays make sure that bottles are empty so as to not waste product.

Signs of Expiration

- ~ Product Separation
- ~ Foul Odors (likely bacteria)
- ~ Loss of viscosity (product becomes watery)
- ~ Buildup of viscosity (product becomes thick)
- ~ Rancid odor (natural oils are breaking down after exposure to air or heat for extended periods of time)
- ~ Does not perform as it first did
- ~ Product causes harm or irritation
- ~ Product codes or Manufactures stamp indicates expiration

ESSENTIAL OILS

There has been much controversy over the use of essential oils in the practice of grooming dogs, whether it is for use in bathing or for calming a nervous dog. There are many essential oils that can be used either individually or combined together with other essential oils depending on the reason for use. Many of these oils are very beneficial and produce wonderful results and there are some that if not used correctly can cause terrible problems and even death.

If you wish to use essential oils in your grooming practice, it is **strongly recommended** that you seek the help of a holistic veterinarian to learn which oils to use, which ones can be mixed together, how to apply the oils and the dosages. Some oils can be used on dogs but not on cats. A thorough education in the use of these oils is imperative. One of the most important factors to keep in mind with essential oils is that **the oil must be pure**. Using inferior products or being uneducated in the use of essential oils, is a dangerous practice.

GROOMER SAFETY – PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Ear Protection



According to the Canadian Government the decibel levels in a Grooming shop should be below 87 decibels for an 8 hour shift and, depending on the decibel levels, damage can occur in a matter of minutes. If you have staff in your shop, find a type of protection that everyone is comfortable with. The more comfortable you and your staff are with their ear protection options, the more likely they will be to use them.

If you have to raise your voice to hear a person approximately an arm's length away, your environment is too loud. The same damage can happen to the pets in your care.

For more Province specific information please refer to:

http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/phys_agents/exposure_can.html

Or see the Provincial chart labeled 1.1 on the next page.

Eye Protection



Use goggles to protect eyes from flying skin and hair debris or if you have sensitive eyes due to laser surgery, contacts or allergies. Refraining from using eye makeup, such as mascara, will also reduce the chance of debris getting caught in and around your eyes.

Chart 1.1 Decibel Levels Chart from CCOHS

Jurisdiction (federal, provincial, territorial)	Continuous Noise		Impulse / Impact Noise	
	Maximum Permitted Exposure Level for 8 Hours: dB(A)	Exchange Rate dB(A) +	Maximum Peak Pressure Level dB(peak)	Maximum Number of Impacts
Canada (Federal)	87	3	-	-
British Columbia	85	3	140	-
Alberta	85	3	-	-
Saskatchewan	85	3	-	-
Manitoba	85	3	-	-
Ontario	85	3	-	-
Quebec	90	5	140	100
New Brunswick	85	3	140	-
Nova Scotia	85	3	140	100
Prince Edward Island	85	3	-	-
Newfoundland and Labrador (references ACGIH TLVs)	85	3	-	-
Northwest Territories	85	5	140	100
Nunavut	85	3 or 5*	140	-
Yukon Territories	85	3	140	90

Having ear protection available to your Grooming staff will help limit future hearing issues, keep you and your staff safe!

Respiratory Protection



Use masks or respirators to protect against hair and foreign debris from entering your airways and lungs. Using a mask will not only save your lungs from debris, but also greatly reduce the chances of sinus infections due to inhaling contaminants. Although not the intended use, a pleasant side effect of using respiratory protection is the reduction of colds and flus passing around the shop!

Another caution that you can take in your salon is to install extra filters in your furnace and replace them weekly to take out extra hair in the air or install an air purification system.

Feet and Hands



As Groomers we work in wet conditions at the tub and loose hair around our tables, both conditions can lead to slipping and falling if the correct type of foot wear is not used. Closed toe, rubber soled shoes are best to protect your feet from dog scratches, hair slivers, and slippage.

Disposable gloves are also essential to have in any grooming salon to make sure that you are protected from any zoonotic pathogens, such as parasites, fungi, bacteria and viruses. These gloves will protect any open cuts that you may have from water and debris. They are also useful when stripping or carding with a stone to protect your hands. Due to the rising number of people with latex allergies, think about stocking your salon with non-powdered nitrile gloves. This way you can avoid unknown allergens with no added cost to you as the salon owner.

SALON CLEANING

Chores

Your salon should be cleaned every day and a major sterilization done every week. Below is a list of chores both daily and weekly. Although we realize this does not contain everything possible, and every shop is different, you can customize these lists to your shop's needs and functions.

Your day-to-day cleaning will entail:

- Sweeping and vacuuming of all hair and debris
- Garbage being removed
- Tubs being washed out of all hair debris
- All empty shampoo bottles should be thrown out or if recycled/reused should be rinsed in distilled white vinegar to prevent bacteria growth
- All towels washed and dried
- Wash all fabric muzzles
- Tools and equipment sterilized in between dogs
- Clean filters in both grooming dryers and clothes dryer

Your weekly chores will look like this:

- Sterilization of all tubs and surrounding areas
- Sterilization of all tables and work stations
- Sterilization of all cages, crates, runs and potty facilities
- Sterilization of bathrooms and kitchen areas
- Sterilization and oiling of all equipment
- Changing and/or cleaning of filters depending on equipment, HV dryers, cage dryers, stand dryers and filtration systems. Large cage dryers often have disposable filters that need changing on a regular basis. Failure to do this can result in equipment damage and possibly fire issues.
- Product inventory – making sure that all shop supplies are available and regularly rotated depending on expiration dates.

Following this type of cleaning schedule will not only make for a safer work environment for you and your employees, but will be much safer for the pets in your care. You will also be able to show off a sparkling salon at any time!

CLEANING PRODUCT SUGGESTIONS

Pine scented cleaners are usually most peoples 'go to' products for cleaning, and although these products do work very well in the salon setting there are also other products that work great and are safe to use around animals.

The cure all for killing bacteria and germs with no ill effects to the animals, like bleach (which some animals can be sensitive to and needs to be in a proper dilution), is white vinegar. White distilled vinegar is a popular household cleanser, effective for killing most mold, bacteria, and germs, due to its level of acidity. Cleaning with white distilled vinegar is a smart way to avoid using harsh chemicals. You'll also be acting in an environmentally friendly way, while being very economical.

There are some cleaning product lines that are made from botanicals that are safe for use around children and pets.

You will find that with very little extra cost to your salon you can find effective, efficient products that kill bacteria but are still safe to use around your shop. If you want to make sure that your products are safe, contact your local Veterinarians hospital, Poison Control or the SPCA.

Should you have a dog with mange, parvovirus, lice, etc. come into your salon, consult with your veterinarian on which products to use to disinfect your equipment and salon.

EQUIPMENT CARE SUGGESTIONS

When it comes to clippers, scissors, combs, brushes and snap-on combs, we are very particular as to how they are maintained to ensure the longevity of our tools. Our equipment must be sterilized in between each animal and oiled to prevent fiction, wear and overheating.

Most clipper manufacturers will carry two step sprays for sterilization and lubrication, but there are many types of products on the market. One step sprays can be caustic to plastics so you must take care around any molded plastics on clippers or brushes. Make sure to ask your vendor the pros and cons of the product line that best works for your salon.

When done for the day, use a paint brush (approximately 1" wide) to brush all debris from clippers, blades and combs. Lay out an area on your table of paper towel. Dip clipper blades, combs, brushes and snap-ons in a barbercide, then lay out on paper towel. Oil all scissors and clipper blades with oil that is appropriate for the equipment. All your equipment will be ready for you in the morning to start a new day!