

Basic Information on Dog Clippers

It's that time again and "Fido" needs a haircut. Many owners would like to clip their dog's hair themselves – a decision that can save time and stress to your pet. But, before you spend even one thin dime, you should know the difference between *trimmers* and *clippers*.

To keep it simple, trimmers are for small areas like the face, ears, and paws. They work with a light weight electromagnetic motor that vibrates – so it's not very strong. Trimmers are **not** made to shave or cut large areas of pet hair. This type of mishandling can burn up the motor or dull the blade – often ruining the trimmer on the first use!

Clippers vs Trimmers

If you need to shave, you need clippers. Clippers are much stronger because they have a gear driven motor. (MUCH more powerful!) Clippers do cost more, but if taken care of properly, they will last for many years.

Clipper Care

Both clipper and trimmer blades are shipped from the factory with a protective coating to prevent humidity problems (rust) in shipping or storage. Before the first use, pour a small amount of Blade Wash® in a shallow dish, turn the clippers on and immerse the blade in the Blade Wash®. This will dissolve the protective coating – if this is not done, the clippers will not function properly.

At the end of each grooming session use a little brush to remove dirt and hair from the blade, then *while the clipper is running* dip the blade in Blade Wash® and shake out the excess liquid. This keeps the blade from getting caked with hair, dead skin cells, bacteria and oils. Turn the clipper off, disassemble (always follow manufacturer's instructions) and oil the blade. Afterwards, spray with disinfectant. This routine will help keep your blade sharp.

While clipping, keep a can of Kool-Lube II® and a saucer of Blade Wash® next to your table. As you clip, your blade will become hot. Spray the blade with Kool-Lube II®, a product that will immediately cool the blade and prevent burns to the dog. A dog that has been



burned by a hot blade will be afraid of the clippers and will NOT be very cooperative! If your blade gets dirty while clipping, simply dip the blade in the Blade Wash® and shake for a quick clean up.

Don't forget, never clip a dirty dog or a wet one. Dirt will dull the blade and water may cause a shock to you or your pet.

Accessories

One accessory that no groomer can do without are "*clip-on combs*". Combs clip on over the blade. When used properly, they act as a safety guard preventing your clipper from cutting the hair shorter than the comb itself. This will give your dog's hair a uniform look by keeping the hair all one length. Even for close areas we recommend using a comb. No one wants their animal accidentally shaved to the skin. Combs come in various lengths. They start at 5/8" and end at 1/16".

Nobody does it perfectly the first time, so go slowly. You can always cut more, but you can't put it back. The key is practice. Look at books or magazines to see how the groomed dog SHOULD look! Besides, if "Fido" has a bad hair day (after his first cut) it won't last forever.

Please Note: The information in this handout is meant to provide basic information only. There are several good books available on grooming. Please ask one of our knowledgeable salespeople for further assistance.

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