

GROOMERS ARE A KEY TO THE OVERALL HEALTH & WELFARE OF ANIMALS

The number one job of a groomer is to attend to the health of their clients, aesthetics are a very small portion of what they do.

Coat Care - Different breeds have different coats, some requiring more attention. It is critical to ensure that hair doesn't become matted as matting causes discomfort, holds moisture which can lead to skin irritation & infection, become a host area for parasites and yeast, cause breakage of pet's nails when they scratch & get caught in a matt, hold moisture during rainy/snowy weather causing pets to remain cold for extended periods, cause hematomas in the ear flaps, conceal topical health issues which need addressing/care, exacerbate existing skin issues.



Ear Care - Regular cleaning of the ears and plucking ear hairs avoids build-up of wax and discharge, allowing healthy airflow to the ear canal, as a preventative to ear infections.



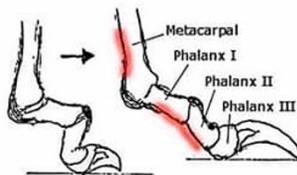
Sanitary Care - Sanitary shaving and cleaning avoids accumulation of urine & feces on those dogs who require this type of maintenance because they do not have a 'natural' coat. Groomers are often the first to identify issues with anal glands and alert owners to seek medical help before an emergency arises.



Pad Care - Shaving of the paw pads allows for safe walking on common indoor surfaces and to avoid hair encapsulating the digits.

Nail Care - Healthy nail length is important to maintain healthy joints in both the paws, legs of the animals. Regular cutting prevents nails from curling & embedding (puncturing) the paw pads which leads to infection and great pain.

Long Nails Can Hurt Your Dog
 Long nails can deform the foot of your dog and injure the tendons over an extended period.



As the long nail hits the ground, the pressure puts force on the foot and leg structure.





The voice of the Canadian pet industry
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Avoidable Injuries - Vets are also having to see dogs who have been cut while their owners are attempting to groom them. This is completely avoidable and is an unnecessary use of our Vets' efforts at this time.

Groomers Help Keep Pets Out of the Doctors Office - It's not safe or efficient to only provide grooming services via pet hospital as 'emergency' needs arise. Veterinary teams should be allowed to focus on critical care such as injuries, illnesses and vaccines and not have their time for critical health care reduced by dealing with preventable issues as described above. Groomers provide a safe way to prevent distress and discomfort of animals by providing services as a preventative measure.

Financial Impact on Pet Families - Cost is also a consideration when dealing with the financial impact on pet families. A nail trim at a grooming salon costs on average \$15. While a nail trim due to infection at a veterinary clinic can cost hundreds of dollars due to procedure and medical treatment.

Why Owners Rely on Groomers - As pet grooming is a specialized skill, pet owners take the responsibility of hiring professional pet care workers to provide the necessary grooming needs which they do not have the skills to implement on their own. Consider the following: we drive our cars, understand how they work and what we need to do to keep them running, but when it comes time for specialized care, we turned to the hands of highly trained, skilled workers.

Early Warning System - What groomers do as animal care professionals is listed, but not limited to, the items outlined above. They work intuitively with animals and are often the first to identify concerning behavioral issues that often go unnoticed by pet owners. These issues are typically the first indications of underlying health issues. As a collective, groomers have many clients who have been able to get life-saving medical treatment for their pets, long before these issues became exacerbated.

Safety and COVID-19 - Groomers have been working with strict safety measures since their reopening in the spring, employing the same pick up and drop off measures and veterinary practices.

Additional pictures available upon request.

Special thanks to Groomer Lori Gualtieri for her invaluable collaboration in putting this document together.

