

Humanity Over Vanity Policy

Here at The Barking Lot, LLC we practice the golden rule of grooming: Humanity Over Vanity.

Matted pets require special attention, consideration, and time. Matting negatively affects the health of a pet. Matting causes restricted air and blood flow to the surface of the skin. Matting leads to trapped moisture which results in hot spots and general irritation. Mats can become so severe it can be ripped out of their skin. Just because a dog does not appear to be matted, does not mean they are not matted. Mats often feel like extremely thick spots of hair.

Mats are not always visible, or easy to spot, and sometimes, only the top layer of hair is brushed out, while the mats underneath have developed. This is why a comb is an essential part of the brushing process, because a comb keeps the hair separated all the way down to the skin. Also, mats cannot generally be cut out, because, most of the time mats are all interconnected to one another. To your pet, this feels like wearing a sweater 3 sizes too small. Attempting to brush or cut out mats makes all of the above issues worse, as well as being extremely painful for your pet.

To your pet, de-matting feels something like taking a Brillo pad and scratching a fresh sunburn. For this reason, our policy at The Barking Lot, LLC is to not de-mat any pet that has more than 10% of its fur matted. If your pet's coat is more than 10% matted, they will be shaved. Due to the way mats knit together tightly, we have to use a blade that will go underneath the mats, this means depending on how severe the mats are is how short your pet's hair will be.

Coat care starts at home. The easiest way to prevent matting is to brush and comb your pet on a daily basis or put them on a grooming maintenance schedule with us.

The comb is the most important part of the brushing process because brushes do not get all the way down to the skin where mats start. Bathing will not help loosen mats. Bathing a coat that is matted actually makes the mats tighter and closer to the skin.

The groomers here at The Barking Lot, LLC are happy to show you how to properly and effectively brush and comb your pet as well as what tools are needed.