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### Overview

This standard covers preparing a dog's coat ready for bathing or grooming by the removal of excess hair, knots and tangles using appropriate techniques and equipment.

It includes appropriate and safe handling techniques, identification of coat types and recognising signs of parasitic infestation or abnormalities.

It is your responsibility to monitor and maintain the health and safety of yourself, the dog and others in the area.

You will need to be aware of your own limitations and ensure that you meet the legal responsibilities for duty of care under animal health and welfare legislation.

Where necessary, the decision to clip off the dogs coat should be in line with workplace policy.

This standard is for anyone who prepares dogs' coats ready for bathing or grooming.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 maintain your own professional conduct and ethics and work within the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 carry out all work in accordance with instructions, records and workplace procedures
- P3 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P4 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P5 carry out all work as agreed with the client
- P6 assess how the welfare of the dog will be provided for under your duty of care
- P7 maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security
- P8 check that the work area is safe, secure, clean and ready for use
- P9 select, prepare, use and maintain tools in a safe, clean and effective condition throughout
- P10 use the correct **protective equipment and clothing** in accordance with workplace policy and procedures
- P11 observe and recognise the behaviour of the dog and record as appropriate
- P12 handle and restrain the dog in a manner that promotes confidence and co-operation and maintains the health and safety of all throughout
- P13 prepare the dog's coat ready for bathing or grooming using techniques and tools appropriate to the **coat type** and condition and for the style that is to be achieved
- P14 use techniques and tools in a manner that minimises discomfort and distress to the dog
- P15 where the coat has excess knots seek advice
- P16 recognise when **observation of the dog** reveals a possible infestation or abnormal condition and report to the appropriate person
- P17 where required cut nails taking care to avoid the quick, causing pain or bleeding, and using the appropriate equipment
- P18 where required remove debris and excess hair from the outer ear, in a manner that minimises distress to the dog and avoids injury, irritation or inflammation to the ears
- P19 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with workplace procedures
- P20 clean/sterilise and store equipment used in accordance with workplace

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procedures and report any faults to the appropriate person

P21 maintain records as appropriate

P22 transfer the dog to the correct area for the next procedure and ensure it is safe and secure

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your professional responsibilities as a dog groomer and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- K2 the importance of completing the activity in accordance with instructions, records and workplace procedures
- K3 the importance of communicating with others to ensure the welfare needs of the dog are met
- K4 how to assess and address the welfare needs of the dog under your duty of care
- K5 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K6 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K7 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how this can be achieved
- K8 types of tools required and how to select, prepare, use and maintain these in a safe and effective condition
- K9 the importance of carrying out work as agreed with the client
- K10 why it is important to observe and assess the body language of the dog prior to starting work and the signs to look for
- K11 the importance of communicating with others and where to seek advice and guidance
- K12 the Kennel Club UK types and their characteristics
- K13 how to approach, handle and restrain dogs in a manner that promotes their confidence and co-operation and maintains safety
- K14 when a dog's coat should be bathed before trimming and when a dog's coat should be removed prior to bathing
- K15 tools for removing excess hair, its selection and correct techniques for use
- K16 why the **coat type** and style to be achieved affect the methods of preparing coats and **tools** that should be used
- K17 how to groom out a coat, removing knots, tangles and dead hair without causing injury or distress to the dog
- K18 the signs of distress in dogs and the action that should be taken when these are observed

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- K19 how friction burns occur and how they can be avoided
- K20 basic dog anatomy and physiology in order to safely handle and work with the dog, carry out a health check and recognise signs of abnormalities or parasite infestation
- K21 how to recognise when dog's nails need cutting and how to do this safely, avoiding injury or pain to the dog
- K22 how to safely clean and remove excess hair from the outer ears of a dog, avoiding injury or pain to the dog, and the limits of what you can do under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966)
- K23 how to handle, store and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- K24 how to check, clean and sterilise equipment and correct methods of storage
- K25 how to provide suitable accommodation between stages of grooming
- K26 appropriate records to be kept, the importance of confidentiality and the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998

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#### Scope/range

#### Coat types:

- 1 wool
- 2 wire
- 3 silk
- 4 double – long and short
- 5 smooth

#### Tools to remove knots, tangles and dead hair:

- 6 comb and brush
- 7 de-matting tools

#### Observation of the dog:

- 8 feet, nails and pads
- 9 ear condition
- 10 mouth, teeth and gums
- 11 skin and coat
- 12 internal and external parasites
- 13 eyes
- 14 genital and mammary area
- 15 anal glands

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#### Glossary

#### **Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):**

It is illegal under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) for non-veterinary surgeons to practise veterinary surgery.

The Act defines Veterinary Surgery as:

- the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;
- the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
- the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and
- the performance of surgical operations on animals.

#### **Current animal welfare legislation:**

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

#### **Protective equipment and clothing could include:**

- gloves
- apron

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<b>Originating organisation</b>	Lantra
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	dog grooming
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<b>Suite</b>	Animal Care and Welfare
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<b>Keywords</b>	dogs; trim; groom
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