

Change of fur in the dog - this is how you care properly!



Almost all dogs - with the exception of an old Peruvian and a Mexican breed - have fur that covers the entire body. Just as we humans change our clothes regularly, most dogs also change their coat. Usually twice a year, it means not only having a broom and vacuum cleaner at hand, but also a comb, brush and, if necessary, a trimmer. Read here how you can help your dog change their coat and support them in the process.

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The coat

With the exception of very few breeds, the entire body of the dog is covered with fur. Only the nose and the pads of the paws are hairless. The hair grows - not visible to us - in tufts from funnels. Nerve cells in the skin and nerve fibers in the outermost layer of hair transmit signals that the hair catches, and tiny muscles ensure that the hair bristles or lay flat.

Two to three secondary hairs are assigned to each main hair. The hair root lies under the skin. Sebaceous glands supply each individual hair with fats and minerals. In addition, the tallow helps to protect the dog from excessive moisture - this is particularly pronounced in breeds such as the Labrador. The healthy hair shines and is supple. Hair is also referred to as a mirror of health, because its condition often shows whether the dog is physically and mentally stable.

Incidentally, the ingredients of spot-on products are also distributed via the fatty layer of the skin, which then protect it from flea and tick bites. In dogs, we distinguish top coat and wool hair (undercoat). Although every single hair is as light as a feather, the amount makes a difference: For short-haired dogs without an undercoat, you calculate four grams of hair per kilo of body weight, for long-haired dogs with a dense undercoat, 35 grams of hair per kilo of body weight. So a ten kilo whippet wears a coat of just 40 grams on its body, while a thirty-five-kilo golden retriever carries about a kilo of fur.



Why and how often do dogs change their fur?

The change of coat is usually unloved. Thick balls of fur may collect on sofas, beds and floors. You can then hardly keep up with the vacuuming. But the process of shedding is natural and healthy. It is part of the dog and generally takes place twice a year.

Coat change at a glance:

As temperatures rise and the weather gets milder in the spring, your dog will slowly shed its winter coat and gain a lighter summer coat.

Later in the fall, it's not just an additional winter coat that grows back: an all-round renewal takes place again. And that means: The hair falls out again, albeit less than in spring. The winter coat is usually formed with a thicker undercoat (depending on the breed), which protects the dog from the cold.

Dog sheds extremely - what to do?

There are dogs that shed all year round. But even with these breeds, the change of coat is more pronounced, especially in spring. The old, thick hair falls out to make room for the new one. This process of renewal takes about six to eight weeks.

There are also some peculiarities in seniors, who shed more hair as they age, and in bitches, who go through shedding, especially before heat. Neutered dogs also shed significantly more. However, what all dogs have in common is that they need support and special care during this time.



Your dog is losing a lot of hair and you're wondering if that's normal?

Then have your darling checked out by a vet to find out whether a disease is responsible for the fur loss. Diet also affects your dog's coat. Maybe there is an allergy or intolerance and you have to adjust the feeding. Unusual hair loss can have many causes - get expert advice from your veterinarian! This way you can be sure that your darling is not missing anything. In the following you will find out how you can best support your dog with grooming and what you should pay attention to.

Away with the "baby fur": change of coat in puppies

Puppies have a particularly soft and cuddly coat. But it doesn't always stay that way. At some point the time has come: Your youngest four-legged friend is about to change its fur for the first time. He loses his "baby fur" and gets his first coat as an adult dog.

The new fur looks different and has a different texture. It is usually sturdier and more solid. This first change of coat lasts significantly longer than the later regular change of coat: sometimes several weeks, sometimes a few months. Here, too, the period varies greatly depending on the animal and breed.

During this time you can get your darling used to combing and brushing. So he gets to know the procedure as a pleasant thing. The little one will probably find this boring at first and would rather play with the brush. Try to calm him down and then reward him with a treat and an extra game round.

Tip: Make the first attempts at brushing when the puppy is tired.



Help your dog change its coat

The change of fur is not always pleasant for the animals. Especially in breeds with a thick undercoat, the change of coat can cause itching in the dog. Because if hairs that have fallen out remain in the fur, they can sting. Some dogs then scratch themselves constantly. You can speed up the change of coat by helping your dog: brush him regularly. Regular brushing has two other effects: On the one hand, the massage effect improves blood circulation in the skin. It becomes more supple and strengthened at the same time. Your protective film can regenerate better. On the other hand, you discover ticks, fleas or skin eczema during routine care and can (or have) treat the dog immediately. Or let a professional show you how to use a trimmer to remove excess, dead hair.

Every dog is an individual. Even within a breed, the coat change can be very different. Your veterinarian can give you tips on this.

Grooming tools

There are some useful tools and special brushes for grooming:

* Slicker brush: a perfect brush to remove loose hair and dirt particles. It is ideal for loosening felt.

** Bristle brush: best suited for breeds with short or bristly hair.

*** Detangler

**** Rubber curry comb: for skin massage and to get puppies used to brushing and combing.

***** Furminator: With the Furminator you brush the loose undercoat out of the coat.

***** Trimmer: a special pair of scissors with blunt edges to remove dead long hair, e.g. from wire-haired dachshunds.

What different types of fur are there?

Unless you have a Mexican Xoloitzcuintle or Peruvian Inca dog with no fur as a companion, your pet's coat can be assigned to one of the following coat types:

Short coat with little or no undercoat

These are, for example, short-haired dachshunds, Great Danes and Dalmatians. For these breeds, weekly grooming with a knobbed brush or grooming glove is usually sufficient.

Long hair with little or no undercoat

Poodles, for example, often do not shed their hair. But her coat tends to tangle. You should therefore go to the dog groomer from time to time or brush by yourself regularly.

Wiry-haired dogs

Wire-haired dogs are special when it comes to their coats. Breeds such as wire-haired dachshunds or schnauzers have very different and individual hair. Let a dog groomer show you how to care for your dog.

Short coat with undercoat

These include Rottweilers and Labrador Retrievers. Here you should reach for the fur brush two to three times a week.

Long coat with lots of undercoat

Husky, Australian Shepherd, Bernese Mountain Dogs and German Shepherds should be brushed two to three times a week and daily during the shedding season.

