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# CHOOSING A GROOMER



## **C S Canine Behaviour & Training**

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Even smooth coated dogs need coat care. As well as removing dead hair, rather your dog shedding it around the house, it also helps to stimulate the skin and is a good bonding process for the partnership. Most of a dog's coat care can be done at home, but if you have a dog that needs clipping, scissoring or hand stripping you will probably need a professional groomer.

Finding a groomer that provides a caring service using non-aversive handling is important for your dog to ensure they don't have a bad experience. Below are a few points to think about:

- Ask your dog trainer/behaviourist if they can recommend anyone – if they use reward based methods they should know of groomers they are comfortable in recommending.
- Ask friends about their experiences with groomers – how is their dog after a visit to the salon? Are they happy or subdued?
- Before making an appointment, ask if you can visit the groomer – how do the dogs appear that are being groomed? The dogs should look comfortable and not fearful.
- Ask the groomer about techniques they use if a dog is resistant – they should take their time with fearful/reluctant dogs and use positive reinforcement to encourage the dogs to relax.
- Ask if you can stay while your dog is being groomed – this way you can make sure your dog is comfortable and not being harmed in any way.
- If you have a puppy ask if they do puppy introductions, short sessions to introduce the puppy to the bath, grooming table, scissors, clippers etc before they go for a full groom.

Good groomers are usually booked up well in advance, so you may have to wait a while for an appointment, don't leave finding someone until the last minute.

**If in doubt about the attitude of the groomer – look elsewhere!**