



GROOMING YOUR SENIOR DOG WITH EXTRA CARE

How thoughtful, unhurried grooming can help older dogs stay comfortable.

Comfort matters more than a perfect finish.

A SHORT GUIDE FROM COSY COAT STUDIO

Calm one-to-one grooming in a quieter space

Why grooming matters even more with age

The RSPCA advises that older dogs may benefit from gentle grooming, which also gives you a valuable chance to notice lumps, bumps or any areas your dog seems uncomfortable having touched. It is about far more than appearance.

NOTICE A CHANGE?

Mention it to your vet rather than assuming it is simply part of getting older.

What can change as dogs get older

1

Skin and coat

Skin and coat condition may change with age. Gentler products, suitable brushes and regular coat checks can help keep grooming comfortable.

2

Hearing and eyesight

Reduced hearing or vision can make sudden noises, movements or an unexpected touch more startling.

3

Joints and mobility

Stiffness can make some positions uncomfortable. Less activity may mean nails wear down more slowly, so regular checks matter.

4

Stamina

A groom that once felt easy may become tiring. Shorter, calmer sessions and planned breaks are often kinder.

Approach quietly and give them time

Older dogs with changing senses may be startled more easily. A calm voice, gentle handling and letting them know where you are can make a real difference.

Source: RSPCA, Caring for Older Dogs. rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/health/seniordogs

General guidance only. Speak with your vet about new pain, stiffness, skin changes or unusual behaviour.

How I adapt a senior groom

Every older dog is different, so the groom is shaped around what they can comfortably manage on that particular day.

1

Unhurried appointments

Breaks are built in rather than pushing straight through. Your dog gets time to settle, rest and reset.

2

Comfort comes first

I prioritise the areas that matter most for comfort, such as hygiene areas, the face, nails and any matting, in case your dog tires.

3

Less lifting and climbing

The electric bath and grooming table lower for easier access, then rise gently to working height. This can reduce unnecessary strain for sore or stiff dogs.

4

Your dog's pace sets the groom

If the appointment becomes too much, we simply do less. Where appropriate, we can arrange to finish another time.

Extra physical support when needed

Standing for a full groom is not always easy for older dogs with stiff joints or weaker legs. I have supportive grooming equipment available to help them stay steady and comfortable, rather than struggling to hold themselves up for the entire appointment.

A KINDER GROOM CAN LOOK DIFFERENT

The aim is a comfortable dog, not perfection at any cost.

A few things worth knowing

Small changes in behaviour can tell us that grooming needs to change too. You know your dog best, so please tell me what you have noticed at home.

Talk to your vet if...

- Your dog suddenly becomes reluctant to be brushed or touched.
- You notice new stiffness, pain, skin changes, lumps or sore areas.
- They have complex health needs that could affect the appointment.

BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT

Let me know about mobility problems, sensitive areas, medication or advice your vet has given you, so I can plan the groom around your dog.

Growing older should not mean dreading the groom

If your dog is getting older and you are wondering how their grooming might need to change, I am always happy to talk it through.

Andrea

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MESSAGE US TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SENIOR DOG