**Matted Dog Disclaimer**

Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal: - this includes prolonged ‘de-matting’ which is painful and detrimental to the welfare of the dog. Matted coats can cause a variety of skin and health problems. Matted fur does not allow the air to circulate to the skin, which can lead to hot spots, bacterial and fungal infections. Fleas, ticks, and other parasites may be living in the coat causing further skin problems. Matted fur also pulls and binds, causing pain to your pet when they move or lay on the mats. The skin underneath maybe raw, inflamed and abraded. Matted coats will not dry properly which can also lead to skin infections. This is very different to removing small knots, tangles and isolated matted hair from the coat which can be achieved quickly without causing anxiety, stress or pain.

We have assessed your dog’s coat and have determined that the only humane thing to do is clip the coat short and close to the skin. It is unfeasible to de-mat/brush out the coat as this would cause excessive pain, discomfort and suffering.

We will be happy to show you how to care for your pet’s coat for the future, however due to the stress and pain it will undoubtably cause your pet this is not an option now. There is a strong chance that your pet’s skin will become more irritated during the clipping process. We recommend using a medicated shampoo to help sooth any irritation that may occur. Due to the mats being tight against the skin, the only way of removing them is to use a short blade to clip between the skin and mats he/she maybe nicked/cut because we must work so closely to the skin. We are very careful, but the possibility of injury is there, and you need to be aware of this and give permission to proceed.

Effects following matt removal can include irritation, redness, burns, abrasions, nicks and self-inflicted irritations/abrasions from excessive rubbing, scratching or biting. The removal of matts may also uncover additional problems that were unseen beforehand. If a dog has excessively matted ears, bleeding at the tips of the ear can occur when the matting is removed, this is because the delicate blood vessels have been restricted by the tight matted hair and releasing this pressure means blood rushes to the tips of the ears and can cause the ears to split at the tip or haematomas to occur.

Dogs that have not been groomed regularly may become stressed and find the grooming session painful.

Clipping a matted coat can take longer and cause additional wear and tear on our equipment.

To reduce your dog’s potential stress, pain and discomfort, we cannot guarantee that a whole treatment will take place in one session. The treatment may need to take place over more than one session or we may refer you to your vet to do the same. In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006, we will not spend more than 15 minutes removing matts from any dog in a single session. We reserve the right to refuse heavily matted dogs.

Your signature on this form confirms that you have given permission for your dog’s coat to be clipped short and accept that on this occasion, any personal preference for how you dog should be groomed will not be taken into consideration as we will only do what is best for you dog. You release Happy Paws @ B63 from any responsibility of the above-mentioned process and all medical problems that may be uncovered and/or occur during the clipping process. Should you pet require veterinary care after or during the process, you agree to pay all vet fees for the above-mentioned pet’s care.

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| Client Name |   |
| Dog’s Name |   |
| Breed |   |
| Client Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |