

Clipper Blade Care

Clipper blades are the main tool of the animal groomer, here are a few suggestions on how to lengthen the life of the sharpening job. It only takes a few minutes to do but it will increase the use of the blade considerably. Clipper blades are only 1/2 of your cutting system, your clipper needs some maintenance too.



At the end of the grooming day your blades will look like the ones above, covered with hair, pet dander, and "Cool-Lube". All this stuff needs to be cleaned off the blades and this is why:

1. Even though pet hair is thicker than human hair, it will melt with extreme heat and the heat of your blades is enough. In combination with oil and pet dander it becomes a slimy mess that will creep under the cutter of your blade.
2. Once the underside of your cutter gets contaminated with this dried slime it will raise the points of the cutter and start to snag hair or drag through the coat. If cleaning doesn't start immediately the blade will dull.



To clean the blades daily is a simple task as illustrated in the photo.

1. Slide the cutter to one side and take a small brush (toothbrush) and clean the cutter, comb, and spring of all hair, dander and oil. Finish one side and do it again to the other. DO NOT TAKE BLADES APART TO CLEAN THEM.
2. Take a rag and wipe the blade off good. Some groomers wash the blade in H-42 thoroughly and blow dry with a dryer. Other groomers put the blade on a clipper and run it in a small pan of H-42 submerging only the blade. This technique cleans and lubes the blade everywhere. Wipe the excess off with paper towel and its ready to use.
3. Finally, apply a very light coat of clipper oil. Slide the cutter back and forth and apply oil to each side and don't forget the top of the cutter where the spring makes contact.



This blade had been cleaned every night it was used and had been in service for over four months on some of the dirtiest animals. The blade was still sharp but was starting to drag. Notice that the blade has only the normal wear marks on it from regular use.

Blades that are left dirty and hairy every night will start to acquire a reddish to brownish film that is burnt across the cutting edges and very noticeable. Once this film is burnt to the cutting edges the only way to get it off is to have it sharpened.

A helpful hint from NORTHERN TAILS MOBILE SHARPENING