

The Condition Of Shears Sharpened Over Time

When shears get sharpened metal has to be taken off to bring the edge back to the sharpness we need to groom dogs. Over time, a lot of metal can be taken off making the shears not work the way they did new.

Below are some pictures of shears that have been sharpened for many years, and some that were sharpened wrong causing the problems shown. The problems are these:

- The blades get narrow (top to bottom) and longer shears will fold at the tips. This is caused by the blades getting “flimsy” from the loss of metal. Taking the tips back helps.
- Shears are sharpened to a very dangerous point. This is bad because they don't cut at the tips, and they can hurt you or the dog. Taking the tips back fixes this problem.
- The blades get a “banana” shape to them if they were sharpened on a “Flat Hone”. Curved grooming shears should never be sharpened on a flat hone, you can't sharpen something curved on something flat and create the same angle along the whole blade.
- The tips don't close properly and will snag the hair. Good sharpeners either bend the handles or grind the tips back. Other sharpeners will grind the handles so they close.
- Metal at the pivot gets ground away so the blade has been sharpened below the temper of the blade. All shears are hardened $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch along the edge of the blade to help hold an edge. When shears are sharpened so much, the tempered part of the blade has been ground away. Shears in this condition may not hold an edge long because the hardened metal has been ground away over time.

