

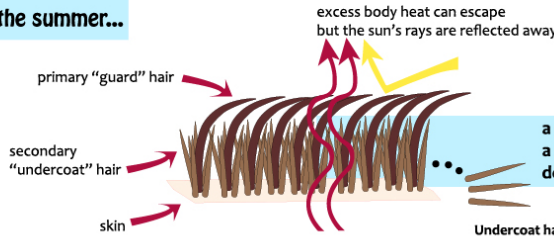
A double-coated breed dog's hair is designed to protect him from the elements.

A properly groomed coat keeps dogs cool in the summer...

"Double-coated" breeds have a shiny topcoat of guard hairs over a softer, denser undercoat. The Siberian Husky, German Shepherd Dog and Golden Retriever are double-coated breeds. Minimal-shedding dogs like the Poodle, Maltese, and Shih Tzu are not.

The closer a dog's coat is to the wild type (i.e. short, straight, and dense like a wolf's coat), the more dramatically he will shed and the less prone to matting he will be. In that case, regular grooming will help keep excess hair from taking over your house.

The less wolf-like his coat is, the more grooming a dog will require to remove loose hair and prevent matting.



in warm weather...
a dry, fluffed, tangle-free coat traps a layer of cool air to help insulate the dog against overheating.

Undercoat hairs shed out and re-grow several times per year. Guard hairs shed out and re-grow once every few years.

and warm in the winter.

- A double-coat overdue for grooming:
- * appears lumpy and rough
 - * can't trap air for insulation
 - * can't repel moisture or dry quickly
 - * traps dirt and debris
 - * provides a good hiding place for bugs
 - * encourages the overgrowth of bacteria and fungus that can create painful sores
 - * traps hair as it sheds, making the situation increasingly worse over time

Professional bathing and brushing can help keep your pet beautiful and comfortable year 'round!

In extreme cases, when a dog is too matted to brush out humanely, the best option is to clip him short. For your pet's health and comfort, a properly groomed, natural coat is best, but a shaved coat is better than a matted coat.

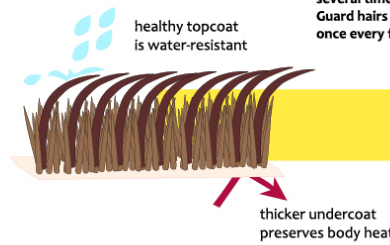
After a short shave:
The coat's appearance will be dominated by undercoat:

- * fewer, lighter colors
- * dull instead of shiny
- * softer, finer hairs

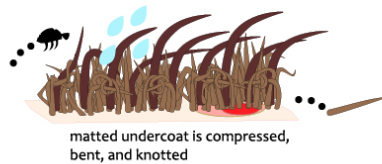
Without a proper double-coat, steps should be taken to minimize the dog's exposure to sunlight, heat, and extreme cold due to increased risk for:

- * sunburn and heat stroke
- * hypothermia and frostbite

The coat will still need regular brushing to maintain a normal shed cycle, but the hairs will be much shorter for several months.



in cold weather...
a dry, fluffed, tangle-free coat traps a layer of warm air to protect the dog from frostbite and hypothermia.



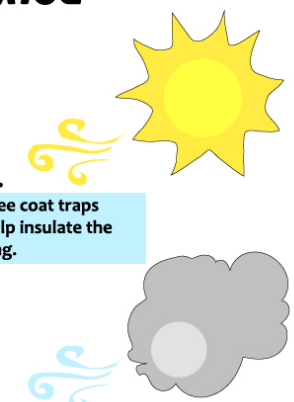
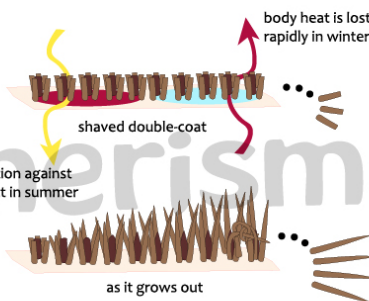
Before shaving your double-coated dog, some potential long-term ramifications to consider:

Compared to undercoat, guard hairs shed and grow back slowly. It can take a year or more to regrow a topcoat.

Shaving can sometimes interfere with the shedding cycle, resulting in a higher proportion of undercoat compared to guard hair regrowth. More undercoat means the coat will shed more and mat faster.

Shaving a double-coated dog can reveal or cause permanent coat damage, hair loss, and bald spots in some dogs, especially if they are not brushed regularly while they are growing out. Frequent shaving over time increases the likelihood that coat texture and thickness will change in an undesirable way.

Dogs and their coats are unique and respond to shaving differently. The information provided here is meant to help you make informed choices for your double-coated dog's hair care but is in no way specific to your situation. Your groomer will be happy to evaluate your dog's coat and speak to you about your best grooming options.



Groomerisms