



Winter pet grooming guide.



As we move into winter, we should consider the affect the cooler weather may have on our pets. Although we don't receive regular snow like other countries, the cold can still affect our best friends.



Brush your pet: Although it is winter and your pet won't shed as much, it is still important to keep up your regular brushing routine. Naturally during winter our pet's coats become thicker. This is their natural way of keeping warmth in. Animals use their fur to regulate their body temperature and if their fur is too thick or matted it causes the coat to become "unhealthy", limiting its ability to do its job. By brushing your pet, you are also distributing the natural oils produced by the skin which helps their skin from going dry.

Protect the paws: The cold weather can cause your pet's paws to become dry and cracked during winter. Applying a paw balm or making a homemade version can keep their paws moisturised and prevent this from happening.

Trimming nails: In summer your pets are likely to be more active, this includes walking and running more so the friction of their nails on the pavement or road will naturally keep your pet's nails shorter. However, in winter our pets are less active therefore it's important to trim their nails regularly. The cold weather can also cause long nails to become dry and brittle and when they break off it can cause a lot of pain for your pet.

Bathe your pet with a moisturising shampoo: Using a pet shampoo with a natural moisturiser will stop your pet from getting dry and flaky skin which can cause an irritation and scratching. Be careful not to use a human shampoo on your pet as they have a different PH balance and using a human shampoo can cause them harm.

A warm spot to sleep: Make sure your pet has a warm spot inside to sleep, away from heaters or fireplaces as they can easily get burnt. A thick soft blanket laid down or a pet bed is perfect for them to keep warm.

Leave a little extra food: During winter your pet burns more energy trying to keep warm. By adding a small amount of extra food to their usual meal it will keep their energy levels up.



Keep in mind the animals who don't have a home or someone to cuddle up to when it is cold. Your monetary gift or donation of blankets can help the Kloof and Highway SPCA this winter.



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