

# TIPS FROM THE PROS

**AGC**

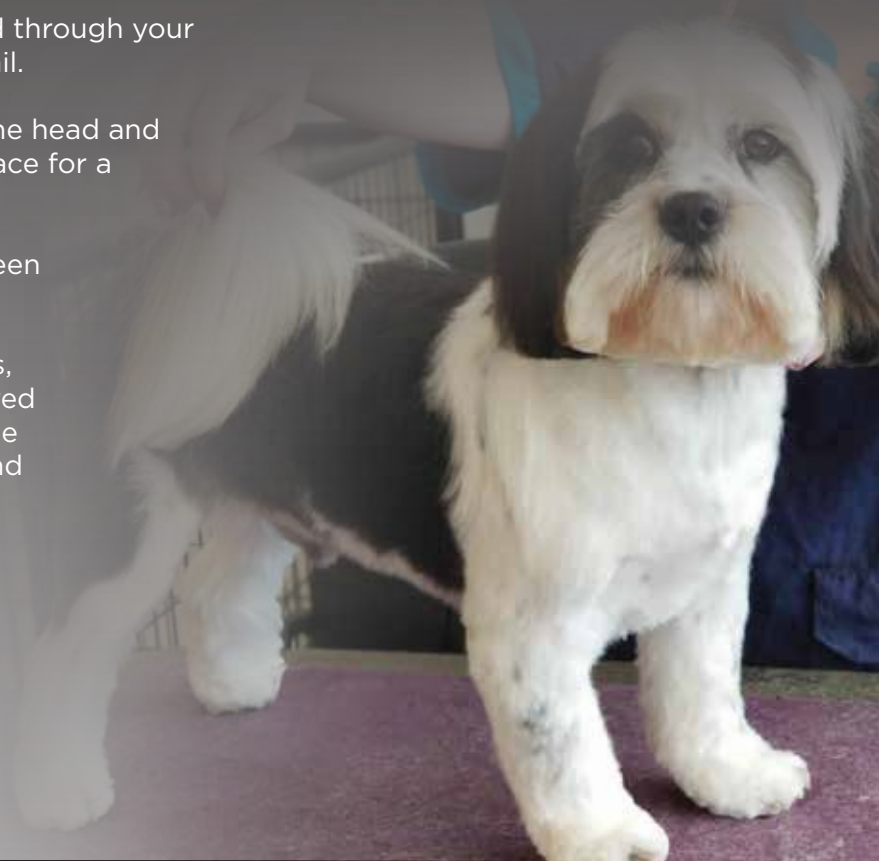
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## Spring Shave Downs

- Groomers who do not interact with clientele should not shave the pet down unless the pet parent was made aware that their pet will be coming home with a “smoothie”.
- Assess the condition of the coat: is the matting limited to one or two areas on the dog, or is the entire body pelted? Do you need to use a 7 or 10 blade, or can you work a 4 or a 5 blade through it? I try to leave as much hair on the dog as possible.
- Do not bathe the pet before clipping. After shaving off the matted fur, assess the condition of the skin, especially on cats and senior dogs. You may need to use a medicated shampoo and follow up with a conditioner.
- Once the pet is dry, take a soft slicker brush and back brush the coat. Depending on how short you had to go, try bumping your finishing blade up one length longer than you did with the pre-shave.
- Always scissor any longer hairs that didn't feed through your clippers, especially around the feet, ears and tail.
- If you were able to keep some longer hair on the head and face, put some extra effort into styling a cute face for a nice, balanced look.
- Discuss at-home maintenance needed in between grooms to help prevent matting in the future.
- **Important Note:** If you must shave matted ears, do so with caution. When matted ears are shaved very short, dogs can develop hematomas on the ears. Matting restricts blood flow to the ears and when the matting comes off, blood can rush back into the ear and pool between the skin. The dog's ear will feel light and strange which leads to head shaking or scratching at the ears. Often, the ear will split and cause bleeding which can lead to a vet visit. Try to leave as much hair on the ears as possible to avoid ear hematomas.



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