

WHY HAND STRIPPING IS BENEFICIAL TO YOUR DOG

Skin Health

Wire coats have a continuous growth cycle so do not shed nearly as much as other breeds and as such the dead hair will sit in the follicle clogging it up, allowing natural oils to mix with various debris and elements of the natural ecosystem on the surface of the dog's skin. This can sometimes lead to pustules, sores or general irritation. The dead hair needs to be removed in order for the dog's skin to be able to breathe correctly and to make room for the new hair to grow in.

Coat Texture

When you cut a dog's coat by scissoring or clipping you are not distinguishing between topcoat and undercoat, both will end up the same length, intertwined with each other leading to a softer texture. This is because instead of having the harsh wire coat at the forefront you now have the soft undercoat at the same level or even in more abundance.

Remember, wire coats were originally bred in to protect in one way or another, whether that be protecting gundogs from heavy cover or protecting ground hunters from vermin bites, they also serve to protect from all types of weather conditions, hot, cold or wet.

Back in the day wire coats would be naturally removed whilst the dog is working, pulled out by undergrowth or by vermin attacks. Because this is not the case for the majority of dogs now, we need to do it for them and stripping by hand is the only correct method to achieve this.

Coat Colour

Melanin, responsible for colour, is only inserted during the growth phase of the hair life cycle. The closer the hair comes to the end of it's life the less colour is embedded. So if you cut the richer coloured topcoat that exposes more of the washed out undercoat leaving you with a significantly duller colour over time.