

# Cat Grooming

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## Equipment for clipping the hair short

If it becomes necessary to use grooming clippers to shave under the mats you will need a professional set of Oster clippers and a couple of different blades:

The number 10 that comes with the clippers may be adequate to clip under all but the most tightly entwined mats. Mats of the worst kind take a #40 blade because it is even thinner and is able to get between the hair and skin gently.

If you wish to leave a little more fuzz on some areas where mats are lighter or non-existent, you will want to purchase a 4f or 7f blade. However, do NOT use the 4f or long blades in the groin or armpit areas. The teeth are too wide and you will risk cutting the skin in those regions where the flap of skin is likely to move up into the blade.

To clip mat out of the surrounding hair, try to stretch the skin taut around the mat. Sometimes a mat may seem huge and puggy, but only a small amount of hair is actually holding the skin. Move and manipulate it. Clip carefully so that only the hairs are holding the mat are removed.

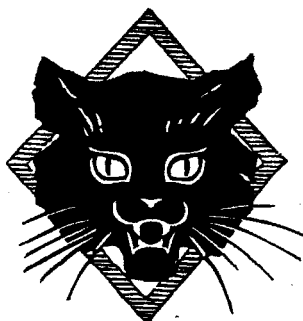
Work on the tail with your brushes and combs before you decide to shave the cat's tail. It takes an inordinate amount of time for a long, bushy tail to re-grow, so don't clip unless it is absolutely necessary.

If you want to clip the entire body, we recommend a #10 blade. Leave the head and a fairly sizeable ruff around the neck area. (You can decide at the end of the procedure how much neck you want to leave according to your desired look).

The anal area is particularly difficult. It can trap large wards of faecal material that are very difficult to shave due to their objectionable nature. The number 10 blade works best here.

Some cats take a great deal of care. Routine brushing and combing are the only answer unless you don't mind a longhaired cat shave short two or three times a year. But proper tools will make the job that much quicker and easier for everyone.

Don't use skip tooth blades on cats.



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