

# **CLIPPER BURNS**

Pet groomers are often accused of creating “clipper burns”. This condition is often mistakenly thought to be a result of using “hot clippers” on the pet resulting from continual use by the groomer. This generally is **NOT** the case.

**This condition is caused by an irritation of very sensitive skin.**

The skin of some pets is more sensitive than that of other pets. Commonly involved areas of the body include the face, neck, feet, belly, rectal, and tail areas.

**Pets with white skin appear to be more commonly involved.**

Tangled mats and flea infestations also increase the susceptibility of the pet to these irritated areas. Rug “burns” from a happy pet returning home and rubbing or scooting on the carpet also may cause the problem.

This skin condition may become evident as early as 2-3 hours after the irritation occurs. The area becomes reddened, thick, and painful. A foul smelling discharge may be present if infection begins. This problem is compounded by mutilation from the pet itself scratching or chewing the lesions due to the itching, which can be very intense.

**RARELY is this condition a direct result of wrong-doings by the experienced, conscientious groomer.**

To prevent the problem, caution the groomer if your pet has a history of sensitive skin or irritation. Discourage scratching and rubbing when your pet returns after grooming by keeping him occupied for a couple of hours by playing or other attentive measures.