

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

Dear Dr Kevin,

Should I shave my dog for the summer? Thanks, Steve

Thank you for your question, Steve! Intuitively our first instinct is to shave our dogs when the summer heat arrives, especially dogs like Nochka, your Husky. While this may make them cooler, you have to be really careful because now their skin, which has always been protected by that thick coat, is now exposed to the sun, greatly increasing their risk of sunburn. If you decide to shave Nochka, I recommend that you regularly apply sunscreen over his body. You can find pet friendly sunscreen at the pet store, or buy a human formula of 15 SPF or higher that is non-scented and non-tinted. You may want to look for a baby/infant formula, and always avoid products that contain zinc oxide. It is actually amazing how well dogs are able to control their body temperature when they have their full coat of hair. Always provide water and a cool place for them to be, and you will lower the risk of overheating.

Submitted by: Dr. Kevin Schmidt



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