

## Routine Care

### **Any suggestions for all the shedding other than using furmanator and a good vacuum?**

While a good vacuum is good for the house, one is typically *\*not\** suggested to be used on your pet. One thing about owning a pug, is that the shedding of fur comes with it. But, the use of a furmanator on a dog, a vacuum or a broom on the floors and routine bathing is only addressing the symptoms. (And yes a ball of symptoms it can be.)

Ideally, the goal is to prevent the shedding, which although natural may be an issue because of diet (nutrition), allergies, or possibly another skin condition (fleas, ring worm, hot spots, mange, etc.) to name a few. Surprisingly (or perhaps not), the feeding of quality food (good stuff in) can have a positive impact on the entire pug (good stuff out). However, food alone may not help as much as one may think. There are supplements that have been shown to help the skin and coat, and thus reduce shedding. These can range from simply skin and coat supplements to Omega supplements as a pill, powder, or liquid or as an increase in the quantity in the food. This can be found in a teaspoon of olive oil or fish oil that gets added to the food; however, fish oil can give some dogs "tummy" problems. If so, perhaps flax seed oil will do the trick.

Whatever the additive, changes may not be seen or take full effect for 3 months possibly, so please have patience, and work with your veterinarian on the things you can do to try to reduce or address the amount of shedding. This is especially important if there is hair loss in localized areas or an overall sudden increase of loss, and not just the day-to-day gathering of the pug dust bunnies. Speak with a licensed veterinarian about any issues or abnormalities related to your pet. He or she should be able to provide other suggestions on how to help your little furbaby.

Remember to slowly change the diet (at least taking a week) rather than suddenly changing it to not force tummy problems.

Unique solution ID: #1004

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Last update: 2013-07-12 04:42