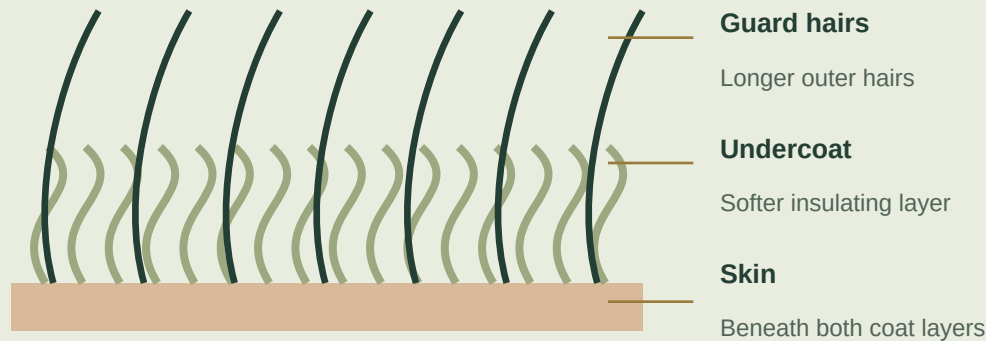


Know the coat. Know the term.

A plain-English reference for your next grooming conversation.

A double coat, simplified



Schematic only; not to scale. Coat structure varies between dogs.

Shedding / hair loss

Shedding releases old hair. Alopecia describes thinning or missing hair. New bald patches or skin changes deserve veterinary attention.

Deshedding / dematting

Deshedding removes loose hair. Dematting addresses tangles. Tight mats call for a groomer's assessment rather than forceful brushing.

Undercoat / guard hair

Undercoat and guard hairs are different parts of a double coat. A long-looking coat is not enough to choose a tool.

Three questions for your groomer

1. Which coat layers does my dog have?
2. Which tool and technique fit this coat?
3. Are there mats or skin changes that need a different kind of care?

Educational reference, not a diagnosis or a substitute for veterinary care.

Explore definitions and related guides: pawpampering.com/en/glossary/

Reading: VCA: Coat and Skin Appearance in the Healthy Dog. Original PawPampering illustration.

Updated September 25, 2026. Share this complete sheet with its source credit intact.