

Dogs Now Hiding Baldness

With an increasing number of pet dogs suffering from loss of hair and alveolar trouble, wigs and false teeth for them are in increasing demand.

Responsible for this development must be the fact that more and more pets are now kept in high-rise buildings, according to experts. While confined in small mansion units, the canine pets tend to lack physical exercise and accumulated nervous stress is supposed to lead to baldness. Consumption of soft dog foods is believed to cause alveolar pyorrhea and other troubles in their mouths.

Canine wigs were first developed by Shigenori Masuda, principal of "Japan Trimming School" in Shibuya, Tokyo, several years ago. At first, they were intended for dogs which had lost their hair in battles or accidents, such as burns.

Contrary to his earlier expectations, his products were sought by many other pet owners, especially those living in tall buildings.

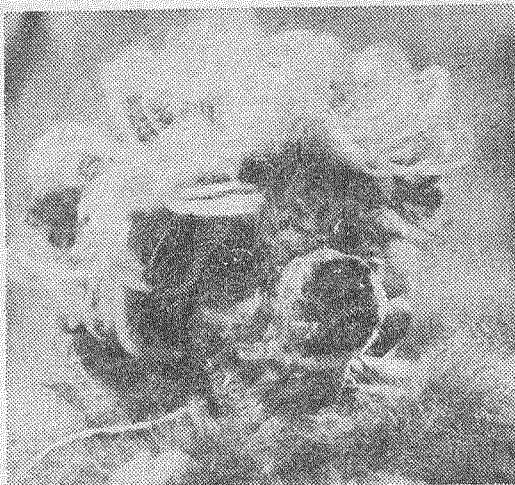
Their dogs are the ones which have often developed baldness due to mental stress, according to Masuda.

Canine wigs, which must be specially ordered, can be made of nylon, silk, wool or dog hair, and dyed in any color or hue to match the color of the pet.

Prices for the wigs range from 5,000 to 20,000 yen. At present, about 20 to 30 orders are accepted every month, with inquiries now coming from as far away as Hokkaido and Kyushu.

One pet owner was so worried over his dog's loss of hair, that he became bald himself, Masuda reports.

According to Masuda, baldness is most com-



A dog wearing an 11,000 yen wig.

mon among poodles, Yorkshire terriers and Maltese dogs—types which are smaller than others but are more intelligent. These are the types which are most likely to have mental stress.

The same types of dogs are also most prone to suffer from alveolar troubles of various kinds, according to a Tokyo school for training hair-dressers for pets.

Tsuneo Yamada, a veterinarian in Meguro-ku, Tokyo, observes that teeth troubles among tiny pet dogs are closely related to their quick aging. Their use of soft foods is also responsible, he adds.

It is said, however, that false teeth for dogs will not stay in their mouths for long.