

IMPORTANT!



**OFFICIAL
GROOMING SHOW
RULEBOOK**



Groom Team Sanctioned Classes

Show Structure, divisions and awards

Structure

Multi-Division Competition - Open, Intermediate and Entry (Novice) Divisions compete separately for the titles of first, second and third in their respective classes.

Competition Level Division

Open: Open to all competitors. Recommended for groomers with advanced styling skills, previous successful competition experience and professional conformation show exhibitors with expert styling skills.

Intermediate:

Groomer's in this Division CAN NOT have already placed as below in the intermediate level at any show.

- 3 Best in Show
- 3 Best All Around
- 6 First place titles (each in a class with at least 4 entries)

Recommended for groomers with Intermediate styling skills or conformation show ring exhibitors (Have groomed and handled a breed to champion).

Entry (Novice):

Groomer's in this Division CAN NOT have already placed as below in the Entry Level at any show.

- 4 First Placements (each in a class with at east 4 entries)

Recommended for groomers who have never competed before and/or possess novice-grooming skills. Professional Handlers, Conformation show exhibitors, and Grooming Instructors are not permitted to compete in the Entry (Novice) division.

This does not apply to new handlers who have not handled a breed to championship.

Groom Team Canada Points

Class placement points

Groom Team Points are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners in the OPEN DIVISION ONLY.

The Following Classes when Sanction will accrue points towards Groom Team Placements. Points are collected and tallied within their given category/Class.

- Poodle
- Terrier (Handstrip or Wire)
- Sporting (Spaniels and Setters)
- Purebred (AOPB)

Shows that are not able to host at least one full class of Open division competitors (2 or more) will not be eligible for Groom Team Canada Points. Mixed Breed will no longer count for Groom Team points. Shows Must Adhere to Sanctioning Rules and Timing for the duration of the entire show to be considered.

Awards

All divisions are judged simultaneously. The placements (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) are awarded in each division. Only Open Division receives points.

Best In Show

Best in Show will be chosen from all First Place winners. Best in Show will not qualify for Groom Team Points.

Best All Around Groomer

Best All Around Groomer will be chosen from all 3 divisions as established by the placements. In order to be eligible for the Best All Around Groomer award, the contestant must enter a minimum of three sanctioned classes. Specialty classes are not included. Best All Around does not qualify for Groom Team Points.

1st place = 3 points

2nd place = 2 points

3rd place = 1 point

1st tie breaker = highest number of placements

2nd tie breaker = highest number of entries defeated

If an exact tie still exists, the prize will be divided.

Competition Rules & Guidelines

Acceptable coat growth for all classes:

6 weeks growth and preferably no visible pattern is recommended, however the show management and judges recognize that some coats grow faster than others. Adequate coat, therefore, will be defined as follows: All dogs should have sufficient coat to allow the groomer to make a distinct change in the dog's appearance.

POODLES

Acceptable Variations:

All sizes & natural colours of purebred Poodles.

This class may be split into two separate classes as follows:

17" and under, Over 17"

Times:

11" and under – 1:30

over 11" up to and including 17" – 1:45

over 17" up to and including 23" – 2:00

over 23" – 2:15

Styling:

All pet and show poodle styles are acceptable provided they follow the breed profile of the poodle. All trimming and styling must be completed within the time frame of the competition with the exception of the feet, which may be shaved prior to the contest.

****Feet may be shaved prior to competition start time***

******Scissored feet such as in the German trim are permissible, but must be styled during the time frame of the competition***

****Face must be shaved during competition time frame***

******Mustache and/or beard are permissible***

****Scissored face styles such as Bichon type faces are not permissible***

****Show topknots may be pre-banded, including hair extensions, prior to the start of the class.***

****Spray up products are prohibited prior to the start of the class.***

SETTERS AND SPANIELS

Acceptable breeds:

*See list of Breeds by Class - Some breeds due to coat type will be permitted to Wire Class

*Please see show addendum for a complete list of acceptable breeds.

Time frame

Time frames are specific to each breed as per rule addendum. Time frames are specific to hand strip or clippered styling.

Styling

Grooming and styling must adhere to the breed profile recommendations as accepted in pure breed dog shows.

WIRE COATS - HANDSTRIPS:

Acceptable breeds: See List of Breeds by Class for Open Division accepted breeds. Please see show addendum for a complete list of acceptable breeds.

Time Frame

Time frames are specific to each breed as per rule addendum. Hand strip guidelines follow typical show styling.

Styling

Grooming and styling must adhere to the breed profile recommendations as accepted in purebred dog shows.

****It is permissible to use a clipper and/or thinning shears and scissors, when body work is hand stripped, but breed profile is paramount and hand stripping encouraged.***

OTHER PURE BREED SCISSORING:

Acceptable breeds: See list of Breeds by Class for Open Division accepted breeds. Please see show addendum for a complete list of acceptable breeds.

Time Frames

Time frames are specific to each breed as per rule addendum.

Styling

Grooming and styling must adhere to the breed profile. Pet trims will not be considered in the judges' evaluations. Entries groomed in pet styles other than accepted show styles, must compete in the free style class.

Non-Sanctioned Competitions

FREESTYLE

Acceptable Breeds: Any Mixed Breed Dog or any Purebred Dog that is not groomed to breed Standard.

Styling: Shih Tzu panda trim, Asian Fusion, Poodlington or Spiral Trims (No Shaving of feet or face), original pet styles and Breed Trims on alternate or mixed breeds.

***Permitted to use 2 bows, small amounts of colour may be added with chalk, blow pens or markers (up to 10%) Topknots may be pre-banded, curled and with extensions upon check in - spray up products are prohibited prior to the start of the class.**

Times:

17" and under 1:45

Over 17" 2:00

Judging: Judge will evaluate the following: Balance, symmetry, uniformity and mastery of the trim. Contestants will be evaluated on the mastery of above criteria while showcasing each dog according to his/her body type, structure and coat. For scissored dogs, this evaluation includes creating a plush overall appearance without scissor marks, unevenness or unintended protruding coat, for handstripped and/or carded dogs, proper technique to achieve smooth and natural appearance, and all clipper work should be smooth and free of irritation. Difficulty will be evaluated with regard to the amount of coat removed, coat type, texture, quality and quantity, and the overall design or style chosen. If color is used on your entry, the color will not be considered in judging. Accessories, such as decorative collars are allowed, however must be removed per the judge's request during final judging.

Pet Pro Throwdown

General Rules

This is a competition for all Pet industry groomers who would like to compete in their own right. Our Pet Only groomers are important and carry valuable skills and incredible talent. This is the place for them to show off and be recognized! If you might like to eventually enter sanctioned events but do not have access to purebred dogs this is the place for you to start!

2 Categories to Enter.

The 1st Place of each will then be judged head to head for this years “Best in Pro”

Eligibility: Open to novice-level groomers (i.e Groomers who have never previously placed in a Groom Team Sanctioned Competition).

Dog Condition: Dogs must be clean, dried, and thoroughly combed with ears cleaned and plucked, nails trimmed with sanitary areas and paw pads cleared out prior to ring time. Poodle feet can be shaved.

Equipment: Competitors provide their own tools, products, and grooming loops. No props, dyes, or costumes permitted.

Safety First: Any unsafe handling or visible stress to the dog may result in disqualification. All dogs must be able to stand for the duration of the competition comfortably and without assistance.

Competition Time: All work must stop at the **1 Hour** mark. Competitors must remove scissors from hands when time is called. *Scissors Down*

Sportsmanship: Respectful conduct toward judges, fellow competitors, and dogs is mandatory.

Check-in: Dogs will be checked for prep work, acceptability and special considerations prior to start.

Pet Pro Throwdown

Clipper Cuts Category

Focus: *Pet trims using clippers and scissoring, emphasizing balance and practicality.*

Preparation – Dog brushed, dried, matting managed properly.

Clipper Work – Smooth, even finish; no clipper tracks; length consistent across body.

Scissor Work – Clean scissor finish; balanced legs/feet; round faces where applicable.

Symmetry & Balance – Even outline, left and right sides match; transitions blended.

Breed Influence – Elements of breed expression shown without strict standard (e.g., round Shih Tzu face, Cocker ear tidy, Yorkie profile).

Pet Practicality – Trim should be manageable for owner (sanitary trim, easy coat care).

Overall Presentation – Final impression of the Profile and appeal

Double Coat Category

Focus: *Correct maintenance or recreational trim for pet dogs while respecting coat integrity.*

Preparation– Was the dog prepped properly (dry, de-shedded, no matting left behind)?

Coat Care & Safety – Coat removal without over-thinning; guard hairs preserved, no scissor marks, clipper lines, breakage or damage to the coat.

Symmetry & Balance – Even outline, balanced feathering, natural finish.

Neatness – Tidy feet, sanitary area, tail, and ear edges appropriate for breed type.

Pet Practicality – Trim must be realistic, comfortable, and sustainable for a pet household.

Overall Presentation – Final Impression of the Profile and appeal

Pre-Groomed Competitions

Model Dogs

This is a pre-groomed contest. Model dogs will be given a set up area and deadline. All dogs must be displayed and labelled by the deadline to be considered for judging. Judging time is provided on the Competititon Schedule. Models and Wigs to be purchased by the Competitor.

Purebred Category: groomed to a purebred breed standard trim. Colors/dyes are allowed.

Freestyle Category: groomed to a freestyle trim such as Asian fusion, teddy bear, spiral, etc., but the use of coloring or dyes is limited to no more than 10% of the dog.

Creative Category: additional accessories and adornments are allowed, but are limited to no more than 50% of the dog. Colors/dyes are allowed and have no limit.

Creative Plus Category: use any model dog as your base, but transform the model dog base and wig to look like something other than a dog. There is no limit on the use of color, accessories or adornments.

Abstract Runway

Divisions: Open to all competitors at any level. All competitors will compete in a single division.

The Abstract Design Challenge is intended to underscore the beauty of an “abstract design”, beautifully sculpted with minimal color (no more than 10% on dog/cat) accents and accessories. Judges are looking for stunning sculpting quality and artistry appropriate for a client’s pet.

- Any purebred or mixed-breed dog or cat with any coat type may be
- Competitors should provide information to the MC, with biographical information and design explanation.
- The judging emphasis is design placement, execution, precision, artistry and overall balance and appeal.

Pre-Groomed Competitions

Creative

This is a pre-groomed contest. Groomers will be given a set up area and deadline. All dogs must be displayed and ready to present by the deadline to be considered for judging. Judging time is provided on the Competititon Schedule. Competitors can enter as Novice or Open level but may be moved by the judges depending on the design.

Salon: These dogs should be presented with a design that would take some planning and could be completed within 1-2 grooming sessions in a regular salon setting. Designs should display coat carving and colour application in a cohesive and appealing pattern. Dog should be well prepped to present design.

Extreme: These dogs should be presented with a clear and identifiable theme. Designs should appear to require significant planning that would take many days and sessions to complete. Coat carving, colour application and coat sculpting should be highly visible. Lights, Wigs and non-traditional accessories/ adornments are all acceptable additions in this category

- Competitors should provide information to the MC, with biographical information and design explanation.
- The judging emphasis is design placement, execution, precision, artistry and overall balance and appeal.
- 6' x 6' Presentation space is allotted

1. Respect & Professional Behaviour

All participants must conduct themselves with integrity and respect toward competitors, judges, vendors, sponsors, staff, volunteers, attendees, and animals.

2. Zero-Tolerance for Bullying

Bullying of any kind—including verbal harassment, gossip, sabotage, intimidation, or online harassment before, during, or after the event—is prohibited. Online behaviour may affect eligibility for future events.

3. Theft, Sabotage & Dishonesty

Theft, attempted theft, sabotage, cheating, or dishonest behaviour will result in removal and potential bans.

4. Sportsmanship Expectations

Participants must behave respectfully inside and outside the ring, accept judging decisions professionally, and treat dogs with care at all times.

5. Authority of OOGS Management

OOGS may remove, disqualify, revoke placements, or ban individuals at its sole discretion. All decisions are final.

6. Compliance With Rules

By entering the event or purchasing a ticket, all individuals agree to follow all rules and policies. Violations may result in removal without refund.

7. Online Conduct

Behaviour in grooming-industry spaces and online communities may be considered when evaluating eligibility for future events.

8. Animal Welfare

All dogs must be treated safely and respectfully. Rough handling or negligence may result in disqualification or removal.

9. Respect for Venue & Staff

All attendees must treat venue property, equipment, and staff with respect. Damage, misuse of space, refusing staff direction, or creating unsafe conditions may result in immediate removal, fees for damages, or bans.

10. Reporting Concerns

Concerns may be reported directly to OOGS management. Retaliation for reporting is prohibited.

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Ottawa Ontario Grooming Show

