



INTERGROOM COMPETITION INFORMATION

Eligibility & Class Requirements – General Rules & Judging Guidelines

2010 INTERGROOM Dates: April 16 – 18, 2010 (Competition Entry Closing Date – April 5, 2010)

Location: The **Meadowlands Exposition Center** - 355 Plaza Drive – Secaucus, New Jersey 07094. All grooming competitions, master classes, and seminars will be held at the Center. There is no specific “headquarters” hotel for this year since all of our activities (including the Friday Night Party and the Saturday Evening Awards Banquet will be held at the Meadowlands Exposition Center. Local hotels are listed on the Hotel Information pages for your convenience with special convention rates allowed for our attendees. Please see the Hotel Booking pages for help with your selection.

Interroom 2010 Competition Judges:

Mario DiFante and **Kathy Rose** will judge all the classes and the Best in Show in the **International Groomer of the Year competition.**

Marea Tully and **Suesan Watson** will judge all the classes and the Best in Show for the **Rising Star of the Year Competition** .

Interroom 2010 Special Competition Judges:

Diane Betelak will judge the **Creative Challenge** sponsored in its entirety by Wag 'N Tails Mobile Conversions

Kathy Rose will judge the new competition **“Spirit of Color”** created this year in loving memory of Serafino Ripamonte.

Danelle German will judge the **Feline Fantasy** competition returning to our convention this year through the generous sponsor Pet Fashion Week.

Best All-Around American and **Best All-Around International Groomer** are selected from within the **“Groomer of the Year”** competition based on a point system:

Best All-Around Groomer eligibility: This requires entering and competing in **at least 3 regular classes.**

Best All-Around Groomer Award: The award winner will be chosen by a point system:

1 st place wins	= 4 points each
2 nd place wins	= 3 points each
3 rd place wins	= 2 points each
4 th place wins	= 1 point each

If a Class has less than four (4) competitors, the points will be calculated as follows:

1. Number of entries minus the placement number equals point/points awarded.

2. Points will be totaled and the highest point earner will determine the Best All-Around Groomer.

Tie Breakers:

- #1 If there is a tie, the groomer with the most placements will win.
- #2 If there is still a tie, the groomer with the highest placement in each class:
i.e. One 1st place and two 3rd places (3 placements = 5 points) would win over two 2nd places and one 3rd place (also 3 placements = 5 points).
- #3 If there is still a tie, a point will be assigned for every groomer they have beaten in each class.
Highest point total will be names Best All-Around Groomer.

ELIGIBILITY FOR “GROOMER OF THE YEAR” COMPETITION: Entries are open to **ALL** groomers who have won: “Best Groomed Dog in Show”, “Best All-Around Groomer”, a similar title, or any placement in an “A” Division Class. Professional handlers, owners/handlers/breeders with breed-specific recognition in the AKC show ring, instructors, pet styling contest judges, and certifiers must compete in this competition (not the “Rising Star” Competition).

ELIGIBILITY FOR “RISING STAR” COMPETITION: Entries are open to all NOVICE & INTERMEDIATE GROOMERS, or any groomer not qualified to compete in our “GROOMER OF THE YEAR” Competition.

NUMBER OF COMPETITION ENTRIES & GROOMING DAYS: Each contestant who plans to compete in the “INTERNATIONAL GROOMER OF THE YEAR”, or “RISING STAR” classes may enter a maximum of four (4) classes:

- One (1) during the Friday morning competition
- One (1) on Friday afternoon
- One (1) on Saturday morning
- One (1) on Saturday afternoon

CLIPPED TERRIER CLASS and the HAND-STRIPPING CLASS will be judged on Friday morning.

MIXED BREEDS / MISCELLANEOUS CLASS plus SPANIELS & OTHER SPORTING BREEDS CLASS will be judged on Friday afternoon.

ALL OTHER PUREBRED CLASS will be judged on Saturday morning.

POODLE CLASS will be judged on Saturday afternoon.

Entry Fees for Intergroom, Inc. Grooming Competitions:

Groomer of the Year	\$65.00 per DOG
Rising Star	\$55.00 per DOG
Extreme Makeover	\$65.00 per DOG
Creative Challenge	\$65.00 per ENTRY

All entries must be received by **APRIL 5, 2010** and payment must be received before the competitions begin.

Competitors from outside the U.S.A & Canada: May bring their own dogs or contact INTERGROOM, INC. to request the desired breed be supplied. Any competitor who wishes to have a dog supplied will be required to pay a fee, which will be turned over to the person who supplies the dog and grows and cares for that dog's coat during the weeks before the competition.

See the www.intergroom.com website for additional information on reserving competition dogs.

“RISING STAR” & “GROOMER OF THE YEAR” Competition: The Six (6) Competition Classes are:

POODLE CLASS: Includes Toy, Miniature, and Standard Poodles.

- **Toy Poodles** (for contest purposes a toy is defined as a dog up to and including 11 inches at the withers) with the time allotment for completion being one hour and forty-five minutes (1-3/4 Hrs).
- **Miniature Poodles** (for contest purposes a miniature is defined as a dog over 11 inches and up to and including 16 inches at the withers) with a time allotment for completion being two hours (2 Hrs).
- **Standard Poodles** (are defined as a dog over 16 inches at the withers), with a time allotment for completion being two and one-half hours (2-1/2 Hrs).

TERRIER CLASS: Includes all Terrier breeds (small and large – such as, Westies, Scotties, Bedlington, & Kerry Blues) that will be trimmed to breed profile with clippers and/or scissors. Time allotment for completion is Two hours (2 Hrs).

HAND-STRIPPING CLASS: Includes all harsh-coated Terriers, Standard & Giant Schnauzers, Wirehaired Dachshunds, and other breeds that require hand-stripping. Contestants may use clippers on the head and ears of certain breeds if they wish, but the body must be hand-stripped or plucked. The time allotment for completion is two hours (2-1/2 Hrs).

SPANIELS & OTHER SPORTING BREEDS CLASS: Includes American Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, and other sporting breeds. The time allotment for completion is two hours (2 Hrs).

OTHER PUREBRED DOG CLASS: Includes all purebred dogs except Poodles, Terriers, breeds that would be entered in the Hand-Stripping Class, and Spaniels and other Sporting breeds. The time allotment for completion is two hours (2 Hrs – Any Size Dog).

MIXED-BREEDS/MISCELLANEOUS CLASS: Includes all dogs of mixed breed parentage and any purebred dog that will be trimmed in styles other than specified in their respective AKC breed standards. The time allotment for completion is two hours (2 Hrs – Any Size Dog).

ANDIS POODLE CLASS: *Prizes are listed separately with cash awards and medals for the winners in the “Groomer of the Year” & “Rising Star” Poodle classes.*

General Rules & Judging Guidelines:

Sportsmanship Rule: Intergroom, Inc. has created and maintains a show and contest environment that promotes camaraderie, fun, and most of all a valuable learning experience for competitors and attendees alike. ***Good sportsmanship is absolutely essential to maintain this environment.*** Therefore, any competitor that displays un-sportsmanlike conduct (as determined by the show committee) inside the ring, or witnessed in any public place over the course of the show weekend shall be subject to the following:

- 1) The contestant will be immediately disqualified from any further competitions for the remainder of the weekend, including the finals, and will forfeit all entry fees.
- 2) Any award(s) and prize money will be immediately returned to the Show Manager and any placements or points will be forfeited.

All Dogs Eligible for the “Groomer of the Year” & “Rising Star” Classes must have a minimum of six (6) weeks of hair growth, and abide with the following rules:

- Contestants late for any class will not be permitted to compete if the contest has started and will forfeit entry fees.
- All contestants must provide their own dogs and equipment. A contestant may not display any business establishment in the ring.

- No coaching from ringside is allowed. Violators will be disqualified.
- No rough handling of animals. Violators will be disqualified.
- No visual aids (pictures) are allowed in the ring.
- Attire: Competitors are expected to dress professionally. Excessive short shorts, cutoffs, miniskirts, tank tops and tee shirts are inappropriate. Shoes must be worn. Flip-flops are not allowed.
- All grooming equipment must be removed from the ring after the class competition unless you are in the next competition.
- Classification of breeds is determined by AKC breed standards. Purebred dogs not being groomed to AKC standards of appearance will go into the Mixed/Miscellaneous class.
- In the event a competitor wishes to challenge the eligibility of another competitor, verbal protest must be made prior to the start of the class.
- Competitors fraudulently entering a class for which they are not eligible will be required to forfeit all titles and return any prize money, prizes, trophies, plaques, ribbons, etc., to the Show Management. Groomteam points (if any) would be forfeited.
- If an issue comes up not covered in the written rules, the show committee will make the final decision
- All of our 1st place winners are required to have a "Win Picture" taken with the Sponsor of the Class and the Class Judges by our photographer. All place winners and competitors desiring photos are encouraged to do so.

Poodles – should have at least one inch of hair and preferably no visible pattern. While a minimum of six (6) weeks growth of hair is required, the show management recognizes that some coats grow more quickly than others. Adequate coat, therefore, will be defined as follows: ***The coat must be sufficient to allow the groomer to make a distinct change in the dog's appearance. All banding and spraying of a show topknot must be done during the allotted time.***

All dogs should be free of mats, freshly shampooed and dried, with ears cleaned, and toenails clipped prior to the competition. As a rule, **Terriers** that are being hand-stripped are not freshly bathed since wetting softens the hair and causes it to blow.

Chalk may be used as a cleaning agent provided that all traces of it are removed from the coat before the judges begin final deliberations. The genital and stomach areas can be pre-trimmed (for sanitary reasons) according to the breed standards, as well as the pads under the feet. ***All other trimming shall be done in the competition ring only.***

"In the "Groomer of the Year" and "Rising Star" Competitions, after the judging of the competition class is complete. Gold Medal Winners may "freshen up" their dogs before they return for final competition on Saturday evening at the Awards Banquet. **NO ADDITIONAL CLIPPING, SCISSORING, OR COAT SHAPING IS PERMITTED**".

TABLES & ARMS: Tables used in our grooming competition are being graciously supplied by "**Ascot Products**" and "**Edemco**" for all our competitors. These tables are always sold at a greatly reduced price during the show. To be sure you don't miss out - you can reserve 1 or more tables before the show. Simply contact the manufacturer directly to purchase your table.

INTERNATIONAL GROOMERS: Because of the difference in electric current between the United States and other countries, clippers will be furnished to overseas contestants only. American contestants must have their own clippers for each competition entered. (Please bring your own blades).

CARE OF DOGS –Hotel Requirements, Bathing & Drying Information: Each contestant is personally and financially responsible for damage to their hotel room and/or the hotel. Additionally, the Holiday Inn Secacus will add a non-refundable \$100. per room charge for all rooms that will contain a dog – *this is not a refundable fee.* SEE: "**2010 Hotel Information**" page within this site. Please read the "**2010 Notice to Intergroom Attendees and Competitors**" page from top to bottom for information on setting up bathing/drying times and locations.

Reminder - **ABSOLUTLEY NO BATHING OR DRYING OF DOGS IN THE HOTEL**. NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CONVENTION CENTER UNLESS ENTERED IN COMPETITION OR EVENTS.

Judging of All Classes in All Competitons: Competitors must have their dogs ready for the judge's inspection **30 minutes before their class begins**. Judges will examine the dogs prior to the start of the various classes to determine overall cleanliness and the general condition of the coat. At this time dogs with insufficient coat growth, dogs with parasites, or dogs that have been excessively pre-trimmed will be dismissed. The judges may give a warning to any competitor who is seen handling a dog in a rough manner. A second warning will constitute disqualification. Clipper burns, nicks or cuts will be severely penalized.

Placements & Awards: The judges will choose four (4) placements in each "Groomer of the Year" Class and three (3) placements in each "Rising Star" Class. A judge may also present an "Award of Merit" to one or more competitors in a class who, while not given a class placement, demonstrates excellence in grooming. The judges' decisions will be final and binding.

Judging Criteria: When the allotted class grooming times are up, the judges will examine the dogs by hand and comb through the coat, taking the following into consideration when making decisions:

POODLES:

- 1) SUITABILITY OF THE TRIM to the dog's conformation and breed profile.
- 2) QUALITY OF THE CLIPPER WORK:
 - a) Whether the pattern is placed correctly and evenly, and clipped with the appropriate blade.
 - b) Whether the clipped lines are definite and straight, and neatly beveled where they meet the body coat.
 - c) If there is no pattern and the body is clipped overall.
 - d) Whether the groomer has used a blade complimentary to the coat.
 - e) Whether the feet, face and tail are clipped with the appropriate blade.
 - f) Whether the clipped lines on the face are straight and the clipper work is smooth with no tufts of hair around the lips or eye corners.
 - g) Whether the feet are clipped clean between the toes and the pads.
- 3) QUALITY, UNIFORMITY, AND SMOOTHNESS of the scissoring:
 - a) Whether the finish is like that of plush velvet, free of scissor marks.
 - b) Whether the legs are scissored evenly and are of sufficient fullness to balance the dog.
 - c) Whether the topknot and tail are properly shaped and in balance to each other.
- 4) DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY OF THE CLIP. This does not mean that fancy patterns should necessarily take precedence since scissor trims can be just as difficult with certain coat textures.
- 5) DOG'S OVERALL FINISHED APPEARANCE with emphasis on balance, symmetry, and smoothness of finish. A trim should hold together when a comb is passed through the coat.

CLASS JUDGING: All Poodle Classes are judged on Saturday Afternoon, April 17th, 2010

TERRIERS, SPANIELS, SPORTING BREEDS & OTHER PUREBREDS:

1. SUITABILITY OF THE TRIM and how it conforms to the accepted breed standard and profile.
2. QUALITY OF THE CLIPPER WORK: Whether the clipped areas have been clipped with the appropriate blade. Whether they are neat and smooth and any clipped lines are straight.
3. QUALITY, UNIFORMITY AND SMOOTHNESS OF THE SCISSOR AND/OR THINNING WORK:
 - a) On scissored breeds whether the finish is plush and free of scissor marks: Whether the legs are scissored evenly and of sufficient fullness to balance the dog. Whether the head is properly trimmed and balanced.
 - b) On breeds with eyebrows or falls and beards: Whether the trimming is correct and points up the distinctive features which characterize the breed.
 - c) On breeds with furnishing or feathering: Whether they blend smoothly or stick out.
 - d) On Spaniels or other sporting breeds, if all other criteria is equal, then preference will be given to backs that are carded and thinned rather than clipped.
4. OVERALL FINISHED APPEARANCE with emphasis on balance, symmetry and the smoothness of finish.

CLASS JUDGING:

All Terrier Classes are judged on Friday morning, April 16, 2010

All Spaniel / Sporting Classes are judged on Friday afternoon, April 16, 2010

All Other Purebred Classes are judged on Saturday morning, April 17, 2010

HAND-STRIPPED BREEDS:

1. SUITABILITY OF THE TRIM to the accepted breed standard and profile.
 - a) Whether the body coat has been neatly stripped with appropriate tool or finger and thumb.
 - b) Whether there are visible pink/bald patches afterward (this is undesirable). The hair must always be removed with the lay of the coat and without pain. In certain cases, removing the undercoat by a carding tool is permissible. Rolled coats on hand-stripped dogs are acceptable; however the work in the ring must be sufficient to allow the groomer to make a distinct change in the appearance.
 - c) If clippers are used to trim the soft coat on the head and ears, the front of the neck, or on the insides of the back legs, whether these areas are trimmed neatly and smoothly with the appropriate blade, and the clipper work is smooth.
 - d) If scissors or thinning shears are used to trim the furnishings, the quality of the work.
2. The dog's OVERALL FINISHED APPEARANCE with emphasis on balance, symmetry, smoothness of finish and preservation of the distinctive features that characterize the breed.
 - a) Whether the dog has a smart definite outline with furnishing blending in to look natural rather than jutting out.

CLASS JUDGING: All Hand-Stripping Classes are judged on Friday morning, April 16, 2010

MIXED-BREEDS / MISCELLANEOUS:

ORIGINALITY AND EXECUTION OF THE CLIP with suitability to the dog's conformation.

- a) If clippers are used: the QUALITY OF THE WORK and whether the clipped areas look neat and smooth.
- b) If scissors or thinning shears are used: the QUALITY, UNIFORMITY AND SMOOTHNESS of the work.
- c) OVERALL FINISHED APPEARANCE with emphasis on balance, symmetry and smoothness of the finish.

CLASS JUDGING: All Mixed-Breed / Miscellaneous Classes are judged on Friday Afternoon, April 16, 2010

Final Class Judging: As each of the regular classes are judged, the names of the finalists in each class will be announced, and the medals and cash prizes will be awarded. Best in Show – is after 8:00pm Saturday at the Awards Banquet.

Best in Show Ceremony: “**RISING STAR OF THE YEAR**” and “**INTERGROOM INTERNATIONAL GROOMER OF THE YEAR**” will be chosen on Saturday evening at the AWARDS BANQUET. Only the First Place Winners for the classes will be required to return on Saturday evening for the Best in Show ceremonies. **Best All-Around American** and **Best All-Around International Groomer** in the “Groomer of the Year” competition will also be announced at that time based on a point system.

Best in Show Attire: Please remember that neat attire is required of all winning competitors to participate in the Best in Show ceremonies. Clothing appropriate for showing in a Group at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show would be a good guideline. ***Remember you will be appearing on a platform so, for the ladies – please no mini-skirts!***

SPECIAL COMPETITONS:

“EXTREME MAKEOVER” Competition – Sponsored by Petsmart & Aesculap – The Red Clipper

Competitors have the option to arrive with one breed of dog, and create another. That is, arrive with an extremely over-grown poodle and create a Kerry Blue (look alike) or Portuguese Water Dog (look alike), or Bichon Frise (look alike), etc. etc. Or a mixed breed that becomes a pure breed, etc. etc.... as always, an excessively over-grown purebred groomed into a vision of breed profile beauty is a goal, but it is simply an option to make the dog into another breed!

This competition “as usual”, an intense competition with major amounts of hair left on the floor! There must be at least sixteen (16) weeks of hair growth on the dog to be entered. Dramatic grooming at its best!

Groomer can compete with any purebred or mixed-bred dog. The most dramatic makeover in appearance is what the judges will be looking for.

All the “nips” and “tucks” should be done in the ring with clippers, shears, or other grooming tools. No coloring permitted. If desired (for sanitary reasons, facial and genital hair only may be trimmed up to six (6) weeks before the contest date.

Our “**GENERAL RULES & JUDGING GUIDELINES**” also apply to the judging of the “Extreme Makeover” competition.

Class Limited: To the first 30 entries.

Growth Requirement: 16 weeks or 5 inches of coat – the more hair the better!

Time Limit: 2-1/2 Hrs. for large breeds (17" or over at the withers)

2 Hrs. for smaller breeds (Under 17" at the withers)

Entry Fee: \$65.00 Per Dog

Class Start Time: 8:30 AM - Sunday, April 18, 2010

Awards & Prizes: Thanks to our generous sponsors **PetsMart & Aesculap.**

1st Place - \$2,000.00 value (\$1,500.0 cash prize plus the complete Red Clipper kit), 2nd Place - \$1,000.00 value (\$500.00 cash plus the complete Red Clipper kit), 3rd Place - \$750.00 value (\$250.00 cash plus the complete Red Clipper kit).

“CREATIVE CHALLENGE” Competition – Thanks to our generous continued Sponsor - Wag'n Tails Mobile Conversion, we are able to again bring back this fun competition for 2010. The “Creative Challenge” competition showcases the extreme collective creativity of pet stylists.

1. Entries may be submitted on behalf on an individual, a salon, or by a team.
2. Competitors may color their dog(s), using only non-toxic products **prior to arrival at the show site.**
3. Entries used for this class must arrive in the competition ring completely groomed and ready for judging.
4. You are allowed 1-1/2 Hrs. to set-up all of your props and place your dog(s).
5. Competitors should provide titles for their designs on display signage.
6. Any pure-bred or mixed-breed dog(s) may be used.
7. Presentation will be allowed in a designated maximum 10' x 10' area.
8. Music may be used in the presentation to the Judges, but is the sole responsibility of the competitor. ***DVD presentations may not be used.***
9. Electrical outlets will be provided one to each entry.

Winners Will Be Determined By:

- ORIGINALTY AND CREATIVITY OF DESIGN & THEME.
- QUALITY OF STYLING TECHNIQUES.
- QUALITY AND HARMONY of the final presentation (props and decorations included).

Entry Fee: \$65.00 Per Entry

Class Start Time: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM - Sunday, April 18th, 2010

“CREATIVE CHALLENGE” PRIZES & AWARDS - Sponsored by Wag'n Tails Conversion Vans

\$3,500.00 in prize money! 1st Place - \$1,500.00, 2nd Place - \$1,250.00, 3rd Place - \$750.00

Each contestant will also receive a CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION and a COMMEMORATIVE ROSETTE.

FELINE FANTASY Competition:

Welcome back to Feline Fantasy, a competition which premiered here in 2003! Our new sponsor, **Pet Fashion Week**, has made it possible.

Rules are slightly different from the standard “dog” grooming competition rules. Each contestant **must** have an assistant who may be utilized in a variety of ways. This assistant may hold or restrain the cat for grooming procedures and/or to prevent escape from the Ring Area. All other trimming rules will follow the general rules for *Mixed Breed / Miscellaneous Class Dogs*. The **exception will be that color may be utilized** in our 2010 Feline Competition. Allotted time will be 1 hour and 15 minutes

Entry Fee: \$65.00 Per Entry

Class Start Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM - Sunday, April 18th, 2010

“FELINE FANTASY” PRIZE MONEY - Sponsored by Pet Fashion Week

\$1,600.00 in prize money! 1st Place - \$1,000.00, 2nd Place - \$400.00, 3rd Place - \$200.00

Each contestant will also receive a CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION and a COMMEMORATIVE ROSETTE.

SPIRIT OF COLOR Competition:

This competition is dedicated to the memory of Serafino Ripamonte, from Milan, Italy who, in the 1980’s, brought his styling and unique colors to Intergroom from the fashion runways of Italy and France. Serafino was revered for his talents and teaching abilities. Intergroom was honored to have him serve as our Best in Show Judge on more than one occasion.

Model Dog Grooming Rules:

Model dogs are yarn dogs that can be groomed just like a real dog in a creative and colorful manner for this competition. Groom your model dog beautifully and elegantly with any additions you may wish: Sequins, colors, etc. Your creations must arrive fully completed and given to our Competition Coordinator by Sunday morning

Entry Fee: \$65.00 Per Entry

Judging Start Time: 2:00 PM – 1:30 PM - Sunday, April 18th, 2010

“SPIRIT OF COLOR” PRIZE MONEY - Sponsored by INTERGROOM, INC.

\$1,500.00 in prize money! 1st Place - \$1,000.00, 2nd Place - \$300.00, 3rd Place - \$200.00

Each contestant will also receive a CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION and a COMMEMORATIVE ROSETTE.