



ELIGIBILITY FOR “GROOMER OF THE YEAR” COMPETITION:^[1]_[SEP]

Entry to Intergroom “Groomer of the Year” Competition is open to all groomers.

The following qualifications apply

- Any Groomer who has won two (2) “Best Groomed Dog in Show”, two (2) “Best All-Around Groomer” or a similar title from an “Intermediate” or similar division level must compete in “Groomer of the Year”.
- Any groomer who has won two groups from an “Intermediate” or similar division level in a three- tiered show must compete in the “Groomer of the Year”.
- Any groomer who has won a “Best Groomed Dog in Show”, “Best All-Around Groomer” in “Open”, “A Division” or similar division level or a first place in a regular class in “Open”, “A Division” or similar division level must compete in “Groomer of the Year”
- Professional handlers, breeder/owner/handlers that are competing with a dog that they have breed-specific recognition in the dog show ring with, instructors, pet styling contest judges and certifiers must compete in “Groomer of the Year”.
- International competitors’ eligibility will follow the same format as the American competitors’ eligibility.^[1]_[SEP]

ELIGIBILITY FOR “RISING STAR” COMPETITION:

- Entries are open to all novice & intermediate groomers who do not meet the qualifications as stated in our “Groomer of the Year” class.^[1]_[SEP]

CARE OF DOGS:

Hotel Requirements

Contestants are personally and financially responsible for damage to their hotel room and/or the hotel. Damage to any hotel rooms will not be tolerated and violators will be dealt with severely. SEE: “Hotel Information” page within the catalog.

BATHING & DRYING INFORMATION

Please read the “ Notice to Intergroom Attendees and Competitors” page from top to bottom for information on setting up bathing/drying times and locations. We are fortunate to have

Ron and Cheryl Purcell's "Best In Show" grooming trailer for our use and all bathing/drying times must be set up with them.

ABSOLUTELY NO BATHING OR DRYING OF DOGS IN THE HOTEL. Violators risk dismissal from the show and forfeiture of all entry fees, prizes and points, if applicable.

NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CONVENTION CENTER UNLESS ENTERED IN COMPETITION OR DEMONSTRATIONS. Please leave your pets at home

FINAL CLASS JUDGING:

As each of the regular classes is judged, the names of the finalists in each class will be announced, and the medals and cash prizes will be awarded.

BEST IN SHOW CEREMONY:

"Rising Star of the Year" and "Intergroom International Groomer of the Year" - All the First Place Winners for the classes are required to return 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 the point system published below.

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!*

BEST AMERICAN GROOMER and BEST INTERNATIONAL GROOMER are selected from within the "Groomer of the Year" competition based the following system:

- Best American Groomer or Best International Groomer eligibility (aka Best All-Around Groomer): This requires entering and competing in at least 3 GroomTeam Sanctioned classes.
- Best American Groomer or Best International Groomer: The award winner will be chosen by a point system:

1st place wins = 4 points each

2nd place wins = 3 points each

3rd place wins = 2 points each

4th place wins = 1 point each

1st place wins, 2nd place wins, 3rd place wins, 4th place wins, points will be totaled and the highest point earner will determine the *Best American Groomer* or *Best International Groomer*. If a Class has less than four competitors, the number of entries minus the placement number equals point/points awarded.

Tie Breakers:

The following formula will be used in the event of a tie for *Best American Groomer* or *Best International Groomer* at Intergroom.

1st Tie Breaker: Competitor with the most placements

2nd Tie Breaker: Competitor who has beaten the most entries.

3rd Tie Breaker: Points and prize monies will be shared by the competitors.

“RISING STAR” & “GROOMER OF THE YEAR” COMPETITION:

- *All dogs entered must have a minimum of six (6) weeks of hair growth or sufficient coat to allow the groomer to make a distinct change in the dog's appearance.*
- All dogs should be free of mats, freshly shampooed and dried, with ears cleaned and toenails clipped prior to the competition.
- The genital, stomach areas, inside corner of the eyes as well as the pads of the feet may be pre-trimmed according to the breed standards.
- *All other trimming must be done in the competition ring in the allotted time period, with the exception of the Poodle class, which may shave feet prior to class start.*

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.* Please note that the sportsmanship rule also includes contestants and their pets behavior in the hotels they stay in and any damage to hotel rooms will be dealt with under this section. Therefore, any competitor that displays un-sportsmanlike conduct (as determined by the show committee investigation) inside the ring, in the hotels 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 all entry fees will be forfeited.
- 2) Any award(s) and prize money will be immediately returned to the Show Manager and any placements or points will be forfeited.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:

Any grievance or complaint regarding a contestant, judge or audience member must be filed with the contest ring steward and/or show management immediately following the incident.

In the event a competitor wishes to challenge the eligibility of another competitor or their dog, verbal protest must be made to the head ring steward prior to the start of the class.

All Contestants and Dogs Eligible for the “Groomer of the Year” & “Rising Star” Classes must abide by the following general rules:

- Contestants late for any class will not be permitted to compete if the contest has started and will forfeit any class entry fees.^[L]_[SEP]
- All contestants must provide their own dogs and equipment.
- A contestant may not wear or display any business establishment, relationship or

- sponsor in the ring.
- Coaching from ringside is forbidden. Violators will be disqualified from the competition and the offending spectator(s) will be asked to leave the showground.
 - Cell phones, headsets, Bluetooth devices or similar appliances are prohibited in the contest ring.
 - Rough handling of animals will not be tolerated. Violators will be disqualified. No smoking, open flames or singeing of coat is permitted.
 - Any water or other liquids must be in closed top containers to avoid spilling.
 - 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.
 - Closed toe shoes must be worn by competitors. Flip-flops or sandals 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 the breed standards. Purebred dogs not being groomed to the standard breed profile must go into the Mixed Salon Styling Class. Competitors miss-entering or 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.

All of our first place winners are required to have a “Win Picture” taken with the Sponsor of the Class and the Class Judges by our official photographer. All other place winners and competitors desiring photos are encouraged to do so.

If an issue comes up not covered in the written rules, the *Intergroom* show committee reserves the right to make final decisions in resolving the matter.

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 Best In Show competition *BUT NO ADDITIONAL CLIPPING, SCISSORING, OR COAT SHAPING IS PERMITTED.*

JUDGING OF ALL CLASSES IN ALL COMPETITIONS:

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 and comb through the coat, taking the following into consideration when making decisions:

POODLES:

Suitability of the trim to the dog's conformation and breed profile.

Quality of the clipper work: ^[1]_[SEP]

- Whether the pattern is placed correctly and evenly and clipped with the appropriate blade.
- Whether the clipped lines are definite and straight, and neatly beveled where they meet the body coat.
- If there is no pattern and the body is clipped overall, the clipper work must be smooth and even
- Whether the groomer has used a blade complimentary to the dog and coat.
- Whether the feet, face and tail are clipped with the appropriate blade for that particular dog.
- 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. ^[1]_[SEP]
- Whether the feet are clipped clean between the toes and the pads.

Quality, uniformity, and smoothness of the scissoring:

- Whether the finish is like that of plush velvet, free of scissor marks. ^[1]_[SEP]
- Whether the legs are scissored evenly and are of sufficient fullness to balance the dog.
- Whether the topknot and tail are properly shaped and in balance to each other. ^[1]_[SEP]
- Whether the groom is symmetrical.

Degree of difficulty of the trim.

- The judge will take into consideration the amount of coat, texture of coat and degree of difficulty of the executed trim. This does not mean that intricate patterns should necessarily take precedence since scissor trims can be just as difficult.

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. ^[1]_[SEP]

SPANIELS, SPORTING BREEDS & OTHER PUREBREDS: ^[1]_[SEP]

- Suitability of the trim and how it conforms to the accepted breed standard and profile.
- 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. ^[1]_[SEP]

- Quality, uniformity and smoothness of the scissor, blending and/or thinning work.
- 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.
- On breeds with eyebrows or falls and beards: Whether the trimming is correct and emphasizes the distinctive features which characterize the breed.
- On breeds with furnishing or feathering: Whether they blend smoothly or stick out.
- Overall finished appearance with emphasis on balance, symmetry and the smoothness of finish.

HAND-STRIPPED BREEDS:

- Suitability of the trim to the accepted breed standard and profile.
- Whether the body coat has been neatly stripped with appropriate tool or finger and thumb.
- 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 causing discomfort to the dog. In certain cases, removing the undercoat with a carding tool is permissible.
- 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, in accordance with the breed profile and acceptable show grooming practices, these areas should be trimmed neatly and smoothly with the appropriate blade.
- If scissors or thinning shears are used to trim the furnishings, the quality of the work must be smooth and even.
- The dog's overall finished appearance: with emphasis on balance, symmetry, smoothness of finish and preservation of the distinctive features that characterize the breed must be maintained.
- The dog must have a smart, definite outline with furnishings blending in to give a natural appearance.

MIXED SALON STYLING

- Originality and execution of the clip with suitability to the dog's conformation. This class includes all dogs of mixed breed parentage and any purebred dog that will be trimmed in styles other than specified in their respective breed standards.
- If clippers are used: the quality of the work and whether the clipped areas look neat and smooth.
- If scissors or thinning shears are used: the overall finished appearance with emphasis on balance, symmetry and smoothness of the finish.
- Purebred dogs cannot be groomed to their respective breed profile.
- Purebred dogs entered in this class must be groomed to another breed profile or an accepted pet style.
- The quality, uniformity and smoothness of the work.