

Regulations of the Grooming Competition

“Dubai Groom 2027”

2nd International Grooming Competition

April 17-18, 2027
Dubai World Trade Centre, Halls 5 & 6

Organizers:

– **Al Fajer** Information & Services Center
– **Rajesh Nair** – Project Manager
– **Mytrofanova Iryna** – Organizer, Judge

Goals of the Competition:

• Promotion and development of professional grooming in the UAE
• Enhancement of groomers’ skills and exchange of professional experience
• Presentation of modern grooming techniques and coat care standards
• Promotion of humane and responsible animal care

The competition is an open platform for professional groomers to demonstrate technical proficiency, tool mastery, and knowledge of grooming cosmetics.
The event is conducted under fair play principles and evaluated by an independent judging panel in accordance with international grooming standards.

JUDGING PANEL



Maria Zakharchenko – International ACW Judge

Valencia, Spain / UA

- Over 20 years of experience
- BIS and prize-winning competitor at international grooming competitions
- Andis Ambassador & Educator
- Founder of Spanish grooming school “Mary Groom”
- Member of the Spanish National Grooming Team “Alianz”
- Member of the Ukrainian National Grooming Team



Iryna Mytrofanova – Judge / Curator

Dubai, UAE / UA

- Over 10 years of experience
- BIS and prize-winning competitor at international grooming competitions
- Educator and Speaker in the grooming industry
- Founder of Ukrainian grooming academy “Dandy Dog”
- Contributor & Cover Aeature in magazines “Groom Service” (UA), “Pet Me” (UAE)
- Member of the Ukrainian Grooming Association

1. General Provisions of the Competition

1.1. The “Dubai Groom Competition” is held with the purpose of raising the professional level of groomers, developing the grooming industry, and facilitating the exchange of experience between specialists from different countries.
1.2. Participation in the competition is open to all groomers who meet the requirements of the selected class and category.
1.3. The competition is conducted according to the rules approved by the organizers, in accordance with the established evaluation criteria and the requirements for preparing animals and models.
1.4. Participants are evaluated by a qualified judging panel approved by the organizing committee. The judges’ decision is final and not subject to appeal.
1.5. The organizers reserve the right to make changes to the structure of categories, schedule, and procedure of the competition, provided participants are informed in advance.
1.6. Participants are required to read the full regulations and rules of the competition before registering. Registration indicates acceptance of all established rules and provisions.
1.7. The purpose of the competition is to ensure equal conditions for all participants, discover new talent, promote professional grooming culture, and raise the quality standards of services within the industry.
1.8. The competition is held across several classes depending on the participant’s level of experience, as well as in various categories and divisions defined in these regulations.
1.9. Participants grant the organizer the right to use photo and video materials taken during the event on official platforms, social media, and for advertising or informational purposes, without additional approval or compensation.

2. PARTICIPANTS
(Eligibility & Registration)

Beginner, experienced, and professional groomers who wish to compete are welcome to participate. To enter the competition, each participant must complete the preliminary registration and select both a **Class** (Section 2) and a **Category** (Sections 3 or/and 4).

The competition is based on principles of fairness and equal opportunity, bringing together professionals and enthusiasts, experienced groomers and newcomers.

During the contest, each participant must demonstrate their grooming skills to the fullest, including:
• Proficiency in a wide range of tools and techniques
• Correct use of cosmetic products for skin and coat care
• Careful and respectful handling of the animal

3. COMPETITION CLASSES

The competition classes define the level of the participants and ensure fair evaluation conditions. Each participant registers in the class that corresponds to their experience and achievements in previous competitions. Advancement between classes occurs automatically once the qualifying conditions are met.

3.1. Beginner Class – less than 2 years of experience
This class is open to groomers developing fundamental grooming skills, technical precision, and breed standard understanding.

3.2. Open Class – 2 to 5 years of experience
This class is open to groomers with established practical and competitive experience, as well as winners and prize-winners of any Dubai Groom competition in the Beginner Class.

3.3. Professional Class – 5 or more years of experience
This class is open to advanced groomers with strong technical proficiency and proven competitive achievements, including winners and prize-winners of Dubai Groom competitions in the Open Class and other grooming competitions.

3.4 Registration & Eligibility Rules

– Upon registration, participants must provide proof of grooming experience (e.g. training certificate, employment contract, portfolio, or verified social media work history).

– If proof of experience cannot be provided, participants will be automatically placed in the Professional Class.

– Winners and prize-winners of previous Dubai Groom competitions in the Beginner or Open Classes will be automatically promoted to the next class, regardless of years of experience.

– Groomers who have achieved 1st place or Best in Show (BIS) at any other grooming competitions must register in the Professional Class, regardless of their years of experience. This ensures fair competition and equal conditions for all participants.

4. COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Competition 1 /11:00 AM/

Model Dog Challenge

4.1 Salon Grooming *(Model Dog)*

Format: Individual participation
Working time:
• Beginner Class: 2.5 hours
• Open & Professional Classes: 2 hours

Description:
This category consists of salon grooming styles performed on mannequin dogs.
Permitted styles include Asian Fusion, Teddy style, commercial pet trims, and modern salon grooming variations.
In this category, show grooming styles are not intended, as the focus is strictly on commercial salon grooming.
The use of creative design elements, colouring, and decorative styling techniques is not accepted within this category, as these belong to the Creative Grooming category.

4.2 Creative Grooming *(Model Dog)*

Format: Individual participation
Working time: 2.5 hours (all classes)

Description:
This category combines salon grooming with creative design elements, including colouring, shaping, pattern work, and artistic styling.

Requirements:
– Only pet-safe colouring products may be used during the competition
– Decorative elements such as glitter, rhinestones, fixing sprays, and setting products are permitted
– Additional materials, including extra fur, pre-made decorative elements, or any external attachments, are not allowed
– Pre-competition pre-colouring is permitted only when required by the design concept and involves modification of the base colour. In such cases, the base may be pre-coloured, provided it serves as a canvas for the design.

– All creative design work, including patterns, contours, textures, and finishing details, must be performed during the competition
– Pre-marked templates, visible outlines, or pre-shaped design elements are not allowed

Pre Competition Preparation (Model Dog)
Model dogs must be fully assembled and pre-set prior to the start of the competition, including brushing, coat arrangement, and preparation of the basic structure and outline of the design.
This preparation is intended solely to set up the model for competition work. All shaping refinement, detailing, finishing, and final presentation must be completed during the competition time.

Notes:
– Participants must provide their own mannequin dog
– Supplier information may be provided by organizers upon request

Competition 2 /03:00 PM/

Live Dog Challenge

4.3 Salon Pet Grooming *(Live Dog)*

Format: Individual participation

Working time:
• Beginner Class: 2.5 hours
• Open & Professional Classes: 2 hours

Eligible dogs / Size guideline:
Dogs up to 50 cm at the withers are eligible to participate in this category.
Dogs exceeding this size are accepted at the participant's responsibility; however, no additional competition time will be allocated.

Description:
• This category is intended for commercial salon grooming on live dogs of mixed breeds, Doodles, and non-show pets commonly seen in everyday salon work.
The focus is on creating a practical, well-balanced and functional pet trim suitable for daily life, based on the dog's coat type, structure and maintenance needs.

• Participants are allowed to groom dogs in a non-breed-standard style, for example adapting one breed's grooming silhouette to another *(e.g. styling a Poodle in a Bichon-inspired finish or a Yorkshire Terrier in a Scottish Terrier-inspired outline).* The emphasis is on salon suitability rather than breed conformation or show standards.

• In this category, show grooming styles are not intended, as the focus is strictly on commercial salon grooming.

• The use of creative design elements, colouring, and decorative styling techniques is not accepted within this category, as these belong to the Creative Grooming category.

• For Doodle-type coats, all grooming techniques are allowed provided they respect the natural texture and structure of the coat. The result should enhance the dog's natural appearance without forcing a breed-standard or artificial show silhouette.

• This category includes a wide range of pet salon breeds commonly seen in grooming salons, including but not limited to Yorkshire Terrier, Maltese, Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu, Havanese, Cotton de Tulear, Cocker Spaniel, Pomeranian, Pekingese, Poodles, Maltipoo, Cavapoo, and other Doodle-type crosses.

Notes:
– Participants must provide their own dog model, selected in advance

5. SPECIAL CATEGORY

5.1 Best Team Award

Format: Team participation.

Eligible classes: Beginner, Open, Professional
Eligible categories: Model Dog Challenge, Creative Grooming, Salon Pet Grooming

In addition to the individual competition, a team ranking is held among representatives of the same company.

Participation requirements:
• Each team consists of three participants from the same company.
• If three or more participants from the same company are registered for the competition, the company automatically participates in the "Best Team" category;
• Participants may compete in either the Model Dog Challenge, Creative Grooming, Salon Pet Grooming category.
• A team may include groomers of any level — from beginner to professional.
• One performance is counted in both the individual and team rankings.
• Team branding is encouraged (uniform style, logo, slogan, etc.).
• The winner is determined by the total number of points or by the number and level of prize placements.

6. Competition Rules

Beginner, experienced, and professional groomers who wish to compete are welcome to participate. To enter the competition, each participant must complete the preliminary registration and select both a **Class** *(Article 3)* and a **Category** *(Articles 4 or/and 5).*

The competition is based on principles of fairness and equal opportunity, bringing together professionals and enthusiasts, experienced groomers and newcomers.

During the contest, each participant must demonstrate their grooming skills to the fullest, including:
• Proficiency in a wide range of tools and techniques
• Correct use of cosmetic products for skin and coat care
• Careful and respectful handling of the animal

6.1. Participant Requirements
• Participants are responsible for providing their models: a dog of the declared breed or a mixed breed, if allowed within the chosen category.
• Each participant must bring a complete set of tools and materials necessary to perform the contest work according to the competition rules.

6.2. Tools and Cosmetics
• Participants must use their own tools: dryers, clippers, blades and comb attachments, all types of scissors, combs, slickers, etc. All tools must be of good quality and suitable for professional use on animals.
• The use of poor-quality tools is not considered a valid excuse for low-quality work.
• Participants may use cosmetic products, setting sprays, mousses, powders, oils, and other professional grooming cosmetics, but not excessively.
• Judges evaluate not only the final result but also the technique and mastery of tool handling.
• Coloring, decorative elements are only permitted in the Creative category.

6.3. Creative Freedom
• Participants may structure their work at their own discretion, following the chosen style and breed requirements.
• Any grooming methods are allowed, as long as they suit the dog’s coat type and do not cause harm.
• Participants may take the dog off the table to assess its movement, provided they do not disturb others.
• After finishing the groom, participants may clean and prepare the table for the dog’s presentation.

6.4. Conduct and Responsibilities
• Strictly follow the instructions of judges and organizers.

• Start and finish work within the allotted time.
• Maintain professional behavior and treat judges, organizers, and other participants with respect.
• Participants must be at their station with their registration number 30 minutes before the start for the judges' preliminary inspection.

6.5. Prohibited Actions
• No assistance from third parties is allowed unless the judge grants explicit permission.
• Arguing with judges or organizers is prohibited.
• Participants must not leave the dog unattended on the grooming table at any moment.
• Any form of rough or abusive handling of animals is strictly forbidden.
• Pre-trimming silhouettes, shapes, or patterns prior to the competition is not allowed.
• Communication with participants or spectators during the competition is prohibited.

Violation of these rules may result in point deductions or disqualification.

7. MODELS SELECTION & REQUIREMENTS

A model is a dog of the selected breed (or a mixed breed) within the allowed categories on which the participant demonstrates their skills. The animal must meet the competition requirements for coat condition and health.

7.1. Requirements for Live Dog Models

In this Grooming Competition, dogs of clipping breeds as well as mixed breeds are allowed in the Salon Grooming classes.

• The animal must be **healthy, vaccinated, and free of aggression**, heat, or pregnancy.
• A **valid veterinary passport** with up-to-date vaccinations is mandatory: DHPPI, Rabies, Kennel Cough.
• Coat length must show at least 6 weeks of regrowth or a minimum of 5 cm*, and must allow for a visible transformation.

**If the coat is too short to achieve a noticeable change, the competition time for that model may be reduced, or—during evaluation—other dogs with longer coats may be given preference under equal conditions.*

• The dog must be well-tempered, non-aggressive, and able to stand steadily on the grooming table. If necessary, the groomer must be able to control and manage the dog; otherwise, the judge may remove both the dog and the participant from the Competition.
• In exceptional cases, the judge may allow an assistant to help with holding the dog. The assistant may only hold the dog and is not allowed to take part in grooming, comment, or engage in any conversation during the competition.

7.2. Pre-Competition Coat Preparation

Pre-competition grooming is an important part of the work. The groomer may spend as much time as needed preparing the dog before arriving at the Competition, and may choose a dog with the most suitable coat.

"A good choice of model and proper preparation

is a key to success!"

All information about the quality of coat preparation is recorded by the Expert during the initial inspection.
• **Pre-competition preparation of live dogs** (bathing, drying, styling, hygiene procedures) must be completed before the competition starts. Competition time is only for cutting and finishing work.
• **Pre-competition preparation of mannequins** (assembly, brushing, coat styling) must also be completed prior to the contest.
• The skin must be clean and free of fleas or parasites. The coat must be thoroughly brushed.
• If the dog has cuts, scratches, or any skin defects, the participant must report this to the judge during the initial inspection; the judge will record it. Failure to do so may result in these marks being considered grooming errors during final evaluation, leading to point deduction or disqualification.
• Ears must be clean and clipped inside for breeds where this is required.
• Nails must be clipped and filed in advance.
• Paw pads and hair between the toes must be trimmed (for poodles) — but NOT the outline of the paws! (If paw outline trimming is detected, 15 minutes will be deducted from the participant's total grooming time.)
• The groin and genital areas must be trimmed. This is required to avoid accidental injuries during the Competition, especially in time-limited conditions. Some dogs may react negatively to grooming these sensitive areas, which may interfere with the groomer's work.

8. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

8.1. After participant registration and workplace setup, the judge conducts a preliminary coat inspection, which is recorded in the inspection form.
8.2. Once all dogs have been inspected, the start of the Competition is announced, and all groomers begin simultaneously.
8.3. Entry to the ring is prohibited for unauthorized persons during the Competition.
8.4. Photographers may enter the ring only with the judge's permission.
8.5. Spectators must remain strictly outside the ring.
8.6. Each participant uses their own tools and cosmetic products.
8.7. A participant's work must not interfere with others. Distracting other groomers or their dogs is prohibited.
8.8. The use of dryers during competition time is not allowed, in order to avoid disturbing animals with noise or airflow, to prevent coat from blowing around the ring, and to avoid interfering with other groomers' work.
8.9. During the Competition, the judge observes the grooming process, evaluates the participant's tools and technique, and records observations. After the grooming time ends, the judge begins the final assessment, where the results of the work are evaluated and recorded.

9. COMPETITION TIME

- Beginner Class: 2.5 hours
- Open Class: 2 hours
- Professional Class: 2 hours
- Creative Grooming (all classes): 2.5 hours

9.1. After Competition Time Ends

• Once the end of time is announced, the groomer is no longer allowed to use any clipping or trimming tools.
• Only a comb and finishing cosmetics may be used.
• After the control time ends, the participant must clean the table and the surrounding area to allow judges clear access for inspection.
• While judges are evaluating other participants, the groomer is allowed to comb the dog.
• During evaluation, the participant must place the dog in a proper stance for presentation to the judges.
• During the judge's examination of the model, any actions other than holding the dog safely on the table are strictly prohibited.

10. EVALUATION CRITERIA

10.1. Pre-Grooming Preparation (Hygiene, coat condition, coat preparation and finish)
10.2. Variety of Grooming Techniques Used (Clipper work, blade and guard selection, scissoring skills, hand positioning, and other techniques)
10.3. Quality of the Grooming Execution (Balance, symmetry, silhouette harmony, precision of lines, hidden areas, smoothness of transitions)
10.4. Correctness of the Style Relative to the Chosen Breed (Appropriateness and safety of the grooming technique for the specific breed; no harmful methods)
10.5. Humane Handling of the Dog (Calm work, comfort and well-being of the dog throughout the grooming process)
10.6. Overall Impression and Presentation of the Dog (Behaviour, final presentation, overall impact)
10.7. Scoring System Evaluation is carried out using a point-based scoring system.

11. PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

11.1. Reasons for Point Deduction

• Failure to comply with time limits
• Use of prohibited tools or products, including: structural frames, extreme styling agents, cosmetics not intended for animals
• Receiving any type of assistance from third parties, including verbal guidance

11.2. Grounds for Disqualification

A participant may be disqualified in the following cases:

• **Injury to the dog during the competition** — immediate disqualification
• **Inhumane treatment of the dog**. Any actions that may cause harm, including rough handling, excessive restraint, sprains, cuts, or other injuries. Any form of non-humane treatment leads to removal from the competition.

Important: If a dog has cuts, scratches, irritations or any skin defects prior to the competition, the groomer must report them to the judge during the initial inspection. Failure to do so may result in these defects being considered grooming errors, leading to loss of points or disqualification.

• **Creating disruptions for other participants**. Any intentional or unintentional actions interfering with the work of other competitors.

• **Disrespectful behavior**. Insults, arguments with judges or organizers, or attempts to influence their decisions may result in disqualification and removal from the competition area, as well as loss of the right to participate in future Dubai Groom contests.

11.3. Protests regarding judge's evaluation are not accepted
All decisions of the judges are final and cannot be changed after placements have been announced.

Decisions regarding disqualification are made by the judging panel, are not subject to discussion, and are final.

12. JUDGES

12.1. The judge is the primary authority in the ring; all actions must be performed with their permission. Judges remain in the ring from start to finish, observing the grooming process.
12.2. The competition may be judged by a single judge or a panel of judges.
12.3. All judges must strictly follow the rules, remain objective and fair, treat all participants respectfully, and give equal attention to every competitor.
12.4. Each judge completes their own scoring sheet. The final results are determined by the sum of all scores. In case of an identical score between participants, the judges jointly decide which competitor will receive the higher placement.

13. REGISTRATION DETAILS

13.1. Registration closes 14 days before the event (1 September, 2026).
13.2. All participants must complete the official registration form.
13.3. Participants must read, agree to, and sign the competition rules and upload a signed copy to the registration form.
13.4. Participants must arrive before the initial inspection, check in, and receive their competitor number.
13.5. Participants proceed to their grooming stations for the judge's preliminary inspection of their model.
13.6. After the grooming time ends, participants must prepare their workspace and dog for the final presentation.

14. AWARDS & PRIZES

14.1. Each class in every category will have three prize-winning placements. If a group has fewer than three participants, categories may be combined, and three prize-winning placements will be awarded within the merged group.
14.2. Best in Show (BIS) titles will be awarded as follows:
• one BIS title among all 1st-place winners of the “Model Dog Challenge” competition;
• one BIS title among all 1st-place winners of the “Live Dog Challenge” competition.
14.3. In the Team Competition “Best Team,” one winning team is selected.
14.4. Winners will receive certificates and trophies.
14.5. All participants will receive participation certificates.

15. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

15.1. The organizers reserve the right to make changes to the regulations, notifying participants in advance.
15.2. The organizers reserve the right, if necessary, to merge categories after registration closes, shortly before the competition, or on the day of the event. Decisions regarding merging are made by the organizers and judges to ensure fair competition and maintain the competitive spirit.
15.3. Participant registration closes 14 days before the competition.
15.4. To apply, participants must send a completed application form to the email address provided by the organizers.
15.5. Participants are personally responsible for the safety of their personal belongings during the competition, as well as for their model dog.
15.6. Participants are personally responsible for their own safety and the safety of others, protecting themselves and others from potential bites or injuries caused by the model dog or other dog.
15.7. Participants must follow all electrical, fire, and personal safety rules when working with electric and cutting tools.
15.8. Each participant will be provided with trash bags for collecting hair and waste. Disinfectants may be provided if necessary.
15.9. Trash bags for cleaning up after dogs will be provided.
15.10. During the competition, entry to the ring is strictly prohibited for unauthorized persons.
15.11. Photo and video recording is allowed only with permission from the organizers and judges.
15.12. Photographs of the model dogs, participants, and the event process may be taken by the judges before, during, and after the competition. The organizers and

judges reserve the right to use all photo and video materials collected during the event at their discretion, including for promotional purposes.

15.13. Force Majeure. The organizers reserve the right to change the date, venue, or format of the championship. In case of cancellation, the participation fee will be refunded.

15.14. The participant must comply with all points of these Rules.

15.15. Signing these Rules confirms that the participant has read and agrees with all points of the Regulations.

* * *

I have read and fully agree with the Competition Rules and Terms of Participation.

Participant's Full Name: _____

Participant's Signature: _____



Organizers Contacts:

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SCHEDULE

of Dubai Groom Fest 2027

Day 1 - Masterclasses

April 17, 2027

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Check-in
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Masterclass "Pomeranian Spitz"
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Certificate Presentation
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM – Break / Check-in for Masterclass 2
3:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Masterclass "Poodle Mixes"
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM – Certificate Presentation

Day 2 - Competitions

April 18, 2027

Competition 1

Category: **Model Dog Challenge** *(Artificial)*
Class: **Beginner, Open, Professional**

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Check-in
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Pre-Judging
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM – Competition 1
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM – Judging
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Break / Check-in for Competition 2

Competition 2

Category: **Salon Pet Grooming** *(Live Dogs)*
Class: **Beginner, Open, Professional**

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM – Pre-Judging
3:00 PM – 5:30 PM – Competition 2
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Judging
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Break / Awards Preparation
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Award Ceremony