

Contest Rules & Policies

GroomTeam USA Sanctioned Classes

***For Exclusive Use By Pet Styling Shows
That Are Members Of The United Showmanagers Alliance***

An Addendum containing Contest Rules For Special Classes, Competitor Entry Form, and Miscellaneous Information applicable to each show is available upon request from respective Show Managers, or may be downloaded at www.unitedshowmanagersalliance.com.

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Ann N. Stafford & Martin Gerald Schinberg

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**“Improving
Pet Styling
Competitions
Through
Standardization”**



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ADMINISTRATIVE

To standardize competition, the participating shows have adopted these rules, as written by the United Showmanagers Alliance, to apply to their three-tier, multi-level GroomTeam Sanctioned competitions.

Each show also offers its own Addendum that contains special class rules, information applicable to that specific show, and a Competitor Entry Form, available at www.unitedshowmanagersalliance.com, or the respective show's website.

Participating Show Managers will adhere to the rules as written; however, any rules, regulations, and/or procedures that may be subject to interpretation will be adjudicated by the respective Show Manager, Contest Manager, and/or Contest Coordinator.

Competitors and/or participating Show Managers who would like to request a rule addition or change should submit those suggestions, in writing, for review by the copyright owners; i.e., Martin Gerald Schinberg and Ann N. Stafford. A "Board Review Request" form may be submitted online or be downloaded at www.unitedshowmanagersalliance.com.

CONTACT US

The official website: www.unitedshowmanagersalliance.com offers a "Contact Us" Page. USA Members simultaneously receive emails sent from the "United Showmanagers Alliance" email link. An email link is also provided for each USA Member Show. Complete contact information can also be found on Page 16 of this document.

USA Board/Members only respond to written communication initiated from the "Contact Us" Page or submitted by U.S. Mail or fax. "Second hand" and/or internet posts from social networking sites are not accepted.

COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

It is the Competitor's sole responsibility to read and adhere to the rules contained herein. Please do not rely on anyone else's interpretation, as failure to abide by the rules could result in dismissal or disqualification from competition. Questions should be directed to the respective Show Manager prior to arrival on site, and the Contest Manager, Contest Coordinator, or Ring Steward thereafter. Rules will not be waived or amended to accommodate a Competitor who "didn't read the rules!"

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the United Showmanagers Alliance is to improve pet styling competitions through standardization. The goal is to promote high standards of pet styling and to advance the education of pet stylists. Judges will only award placements to entries that are groomed to AKC breed profile (applicable to Terrier, Sporting, Poodles, and All Other Purebred classes), with no major styling faults.

GROOMTEAM USA SANCTIONED CONTEST

Competition at participating shows has been sanctioned by GroomTeam USA, Inc. This non-profit organization encourages professional pet stylists to maximize their grooming education and skills, and offers them the opportunity to earn points by competing in sanctioned contests held throughout the USA within each designated two-year period. Top point earners have the honor of being ranked as the top ten Competitors in the country. Depending on the number of Competitors allowed by the host country, the top-ranking GroomTeam Competitors may have the privilege of representing the USA in World Team Competition. For more information, visit their website at www.groomteamusa.com or visit their booth at the shows.

ENTRY CLOSING DATE

Entries for all competitions at Member Shows must be personally signed by the Competitor and received, with payment, by fax, electronic submission, or U. S. mail, no later than 5 pm in the respective show's time zone, fourteen days prior to the competition's commencement date. See respective Registration Forms for specific deadlines. After the closing date, a Competitor may change dogs within a class but may ***not*** switch or add classes. Competitors are responsible for confirming receipt of their Registrations.

Late entries will not be accepted.

ENTRY FEES

See respective Show Addendum and/or Competitor Registration Form.

STRUCTURE

Three-Tier, Multi-Level Competition

Participating shows have three divisions of competition, with six regular classes in each division. Each division is designed to allow pet stylists to compete with Professionals who have similar competitive experience. Divisional winners compete for Group placements and first place Group winners compete for the title "Best Pet Stylist In Show." The Best Pet Stylist In Show winner can come from any of the three divisions.

DIVISIONS

Open

Open to all Competitors.

Intermediate

Restricted to competitors who have not won:

- (1) Three Group placements at a United Showmanagers Alliance Sanctioned Show, or
- (2) Best Pet Stylist In Show or Best All Around Pet Stylist In Show at a United Showmanagers Alliance Sanctioned Show, or
- (3) Best Pet Stylist In Show or Best All Around Pet Stylist In Show in any Open, Expert, or Division A GroomTeam Sanctioned Competition.

Owners, handlers, or breeders who have "finished a Champion" in a specific breed, instructors, pet styling contest judges, and certifiers must compete in either the Intermediate or Open Division.

Entry

Restricted to competitors who have never competed, or who have not won:

- (1) Three Division first placements, or
- (2) A Group placement, or
- (3) Best Pet Stylist In Show, or equivalent, or Best All Around Pet Stylist In Show, or equivalent, from any Division at any GroomTeam sanctioned competition.

Should any Class Division have less than two entries, Competitors must move to another Division, if eligible, or may elect to withdraw. Competitors may not compete in multiple divisions, unless division change is mandated by Contest Management.

GROOMTEAM SANCTIONED CLASSES

Unless stated otherwise, styles must represent breed standards and should be trimmed per acceptable AKC breed profiles; i.e., the finished trim should present the illusion of correct breed expression, proportions, substance, balance, symmetry, and angulation, and be free of mats, pet styling flaws or injuries.

Measurement of dogs: Taken from the floor to the highest point of the withers.

1. Toy/Miniature Poodles

Time: 1.5 Hours, 10" and under at withers; 2 Hours, over 10" at withers

Standard: Any pet trim or conformation show-type trim will be accepted, but must have clipped face, feet and tail, which must be clipped during competition.

A mustache and/or goatee, is permitted in this class.

Acceptable

Breeds: Poodle (15" or under at withers)

2. Standard Poodles

Time: 2.25 Hours, over 15" and under 20" at withers; 2.5 Hours, 20" and over at withers

Standard: Same as Toy/Miniature Poodles

Acceptable

Breeds: Poodle (Over 15" at withers)

3. Sporting Breeds

Time: 2 Hours, Handstripped; 1.5 Hours All Others

Standard: Trimmed to acceptable AKC breed standard and profile. Short, easy maintenance pet trims, such as the "Suburban," are not permitted.

Acceptable

Breeds: Excludes German Shorthaired Pointer, Labrador Retriever, Vizsla, and Weimaraner.

4. Terrier Breeds

Time: 1.5 Hours, Clipped/Scissored/Carded

Acceptable

Breeds: Australian, Border, Cairn, Dandie Dinmont, Wire Fox, Lakeland, Miniature Schnauzer, Norfolk, Norwich, Scottish, Sealyham, Skye, Welsh, Westie

Time: 2 Hours, Clipped/Scissored/Carded

Acceptable

Breeds: Airedale, Bedlington, Irish, Kerry Blue, Soft-Coated Wheaten. For the sake of competition, the Standard and Giant Schnauzer will compete in this class.

Time: 1.5 Hours, Handstripped, Smooth Coated

Acceptable

Breeds: Smooth Fox Terrier

Time: 2 Hours, Handstripped

Acceptable

Breeds: Australian, Border, Cairn, Dandie Dinmont, Miniature Schnauzer, Norfolk, Norwich, Parson Russell Terrier, Scottish, Sealyham, Skye, Westie

Time: 2.5 Hours, Handstripped

Acceptable

Breeds: Airedale, Wire Fox, Irish, Lakeland, Welsh. For the sake of competition, the Standard and Giant Schnauzer will compete in this class.

Standard: Trimmed to acceptable AKC breed standard and profile

5. Potpourri Breeds

Acceptable

Breeds: Any mixed breed or purebred is eligible for this class. However, trims for purebreds must be uncharacteristic of their breed profiles. The finished trim should create the appearance of a dissimilar purebred or a mixed breed. Breed profile does not apply to this class!

Acceptable: Poodle groomed as a Bedlington Terrier
Unacceptable: Lakeland Terrier groomed as a Welsh Terrier

Poodles cannot have shaved feet. No part of a poodle's face may be shaved clean.

Time: 1.5 Hours, 15" and under at withers; 2 Hours, over 15" at withers

No additional time allowed for handstripped entries.

Standard: Creativity, in the Judge's opinion, and execution of the trim and its suitability to the dog's conformation. Emphasis is on suitability of the trim to the dog, expression, balance, symmetry, angulation, and smoothness of finish.

6. All Other Purebreds

Time:

1.5 Hours

Clipped/Scissored/Carded or
Clipped/Scissored/Carded/Handstripped:

Affenpinscher
Border Collie
Brussels Griffon
Dachshund, Longhaired, Mini (HS)
Dachshund, Wirehaired, Mini (HS)
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
Pomeranian
Shetland Sheepdog
Silky Terrier

2 Hours

Clipped/Scissored/Carded/
Handstripped:

Affenpinscher (HS)
Afghan Hound
Australian Shepherd
Bichon Frise
Brussels Griffon (HS)
Collie
Dachshund, Longhaired, Std (HS)
Dachshund, Wirehaired, Std (HS)
Petit Basset Griffon (HS)
Silky Terrier (HS)

2.5 Hours

Clipped/Scissored/Carded/
Handstripped:

Bouvier des Flandres
Irish Wolfhound
Old English Sheepdog
Portuguese Water Dog

Acceptable Breeds: All breeds listed above

Standard: AKC Breed Profile.

Note: Breeds specified as "HS" must be handstripped and trimmed per orthodox conformation show trimming techniques.

Sanctioned Judges

As of January 1, 2011

Bax, Anita Woking, Surrey, England	Duncan, Tracy Suwanee, GA	Kokkeler, Carol Henderson, NV	Putman, Kathleen Loveland, OH	Wasserman, Scott Edwardsville, IL
Been, Jerry Moore, OK	Edmonson, Luther Austin, TX	Leady, Lisa Genoa, IL	Quick, Annette Homestead, FL	Watson, Suesan Hoffman Estates, IL
Berkeley, Julie Blaine, MN	Edmonson, Patsy Bulverde, TX	Lehmann, Umberto Cartagena, Spain	Rafferty, Billy Chicago, IL	Weinand, Wendy Murrieta, CA
Betelak, Diane Liverpool, NJ	Fehn, Janice Mt. Gilead, OH	Murphy, Jodi Great Meadows, NJ	Rose, Kathy Boynton Beach, FL	Woodford, Grace Newnan, GA
Bryant, Paul Newnan, GA	Finn, Patricia Santa Fe, NM	Nakajima, Kaoru Chula Vista, CA	Schauermann, Connie Springfield, OR	Zecco, Susan Paxton, MA
Cottrell, Lynda Roswell, GA	Hawks, Anna St. Paul, MN	Ostoski, Julie, Merritt Island, FL	Scruggs, Jay Collierville, TN	
Da Sylva, Vero Lakehills, TX	Hudson, Judy Kingston Springs, TN	Pawlosky, Christina Warren, OH	Tully, Marea Estero, FL	
DeFilippo, Christine Dedham, MA	Kalstone, Shirlee New York, NY	Perry, Dina Niles, MI	Verplank, Melissa Kent City, MI	
DiMarino, Teri Beaumont, CA	Keyes, Hayley Greensboro, NC	Pratt, Sue Blackston, MA	Walker, Deborah Edwardsville, IL	

HANDSTRIPPED ENTRIES - ALL CLASSES

Handstripped coats may be staged and/or kept in “rotation” per orthodox breed trimming methods and techniques as prescribed by respective breed clubs for preparation of the breed for conformation shows. However, sufficient coat must be removed during the competition and within the allotted time to make a distinct difference in the dog’s overall appearance; i.e., appearance of its head, body, legs, feet, tail, expression, profile, and overall length of coat.

Competitors may use clippers if prescribed by the respective breed club as a common method or technique used to prepare the breed for “show” (for example, shaving cheeks on the Scottish Terrier and Miniature Schnauzer); however, all clipper work and handstripping must be performed in the contest ring within the time allotted.

Chalk and/or other finishing agents may be used, provided they are applied prior to class start or within the time allotted, and that upon inspection by the Judge, the coat may be combed through using orthodox breed techniques. For example, Judges would not comb through chalked, teased, or product-enhanced heads of Terriers, such as the Westie.

SPECIAL CLASSES

An Addendum to this publication, which contains rules for Special Classes, information applicable to each Show, and a Competitor Registration Form, is available upon request from each respective Show Manager or by download at www.unitedshowmanagersalliance.com. Competitors in Special Classes must adhere to all applicable rules as described herein, and all rules as described within the respective show’s Addendum.

ELIGIBILITY OF COMPETITORS

1. Contest Judges and Speakers with assignments at the show are excluded from competition.
2. USA Shows are GroomTeam Sanctioned and strictly adhere to the GroomTeam USA Conflict of Interest Policy revised 11/8/10. A copy of the policy is provided on Page 17 of this document.

There will always be “gray areas.” Always ask yourself whether the situation, however innocent, projects an outward appearance of impropriety. A good rule of thumb is: If you have concerns about whether something is inappropriate, you probably should avoid the situation.

3. Competitors with judging conflicts at the Best Pet Stylist In Show Level may compete at Division and Group Level, but will be disqualified from Best Pet Stylist In Show Competition.
4. Competitors with judging conflicts at the Group Level may compete at the Division Level, but will be disqualified from Group competition.
5. Competitors should be cognizant of the perception other Competitors and Spectators have of interpersonal relationships between Judges and Competitors. Competitors must refrain from socializing with Judges; i.e., dining, drinking, rooming, etc.

ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. Law dictates current rabies vaccination for all dogs.
2. Must be entered in the appropriate breed class to be eligible for that competition.
3. Must be within the specified height range for classes with height requirements.
4. Six weeks or more growth of hair is desirable; however, it is recognized by show management that some coats grow more quickly/slowly than others. Therefore, adequate coat will be defined as follows: Coat must be sufficient to allow Competitor to create a distinct difference in its overall appearance; i.e., appearance of its head, body, legs, feet, tail, expression, profile, and coat length.
5. Coat must appear healthy, shiny, pleasant-smelling, and free of ectoparasites and mats by trim completion. A comb will go through a tangle but not a mat without exerting force.
6. Must be healthy and free of infectious diseases or parasites.
7. Must be manageable, without any sign of aggression or viciousness.
8. Competitors may not compete with dogs provided or owned by their Judge.
9. Competitors who are disqualified prior to the beginning of competition will be asked to leave the ring.

REASONS FOR COMPETITOR DISQUALIFICATION/DISMISSAL

1. Non-payment of contest fees and/or late registration.
2. Coaching from within or outside the contest ring, including use of audio/visual aids.
3. Uncooperative or disruptive behavior in the contest ring.
4. Cruel and/or inhumane treatment of a dog whether by handling or neglect.
5. Late arrival to the ring.
6. Razor burning and/or injuring a dog.
7. Rough handling techniques.
8. Fraudulent class entry.
9. Disrespect, abuse, or damage of hotel, facility and/or show management property.
10. Any infraction of Show's Contest Rules.
11. Conflict of interest between Competitor and Judge.

AWARDS & PRIZES

All divisions are judged simultaneously. Three placements are awarded in each division.

Division placements are judged against each other to choose the Group Placements as follows:

1st Place	Selected from the three first place winners;
2nd Place	Selected from the two remaining first place winners and 2nd placement of the 1st Place Group Win;
3rd Place	Selected from the next highest ranking winner from each Division.

As a 3-Tier Show, GroomTeam USA awards points to Group placements based on the number of Competitors Judged in Open, Intermediate, and Entry Divisions. Refer to the GroomTeam USA Point Tabulation System Policy, revised 11/8/10, and found on Page 19 of this document.

The title **"BEST PET STYLIST IN SHOW"** will be awarded to the Competitor judged to have styled the best entry in show, to be selected from the first place group winners. First place group winners must remain in the Group ring for examination by the Best In Show Judge and return for the Best Pet Stylist In Show Competition. Competitors may brush, comb, and re-apply rubber bands, finishing sprays and coat-enhancement products, such as hairspray and chalk, prior to Best In Show judging, but no additional grooming/styling/trimming/stripping/carding techniques are allowed.

The Competitor judged to be runner up to the Best Pet Stylist In Show will be designated as **"BEST PET STYLIST IN SHOW RESERVE WINNER."** In the event that awards to the "Best Pet Stylist In Show" are revoked, all cash prizes, trophies, and title of "Best Pet Stylist In Show" will be bestowed upon the "Best Pet Stylist In Show Reserve Winner."

The title **"BEST ALL AROUND PET STYLIST IN SHOW"** will be awarded to the Competitor who has successfully competed in at least three regular classes and has accumulated the most "Group" points.

To qualify for "Group" competition, Competitor must place 1st, 2nd or 3rd within a GroomTeam sanctioned class.

To qualify for "Best All Around Pet Stylist In Show," Competitor must enter a minimum of three qualifying classes.

To qualify for "Best Pet Stylist In Show," Competitor must place 1st in group competition.

Group points are awarded as follows: 1st Place - 3 Points 2nd Place - 2 Points 3rd Place - 1 Point

In the event of a tie, the winner of the Best All Around Pet Stylist title will be determined as follows:

1st Tie Breaker:	Most Group Placements. Example: Three 3rd placements (3 Points) will beat one 1st placement (3 Points)
2nd Tie Breaker:	Most Entries Defeated. A point will be assigned for every entry beaten in each class.
3rd Tie Breaker:	Most Class Entries.

Placements at the show will not affect the Competitor's division eligibility throughout the weekend, but may require the Competitor to enter a higher division at subsequent three-tier Shows.

All trophies, cash awards and prizes must be claimed no later than 6:00 p.m. on the last day of the competition. Prizes unclaimed at that time shall remain the property of show management and cannot be claimed at a later date.

Competitors with wins exceeding \$600 will be issued 1099's, as required by IRS guidelines.

WITHHOLDING AWARDS

Awards will be withheld in the event that the finished trim does not give the illusion of the AKC breed profile. In the case of Potpourri breeds, suitability of the trim to the dog, expression, balance, symmetry, angulation and smoothness of finish are the determining factors. Entries must have a “finished” appearance.

If the quality of work presented has attained acceptable professional standards; i.e., trim is finished, meets breed profile, where applicable, and there is no basis for dismissal or disqualification, award placements cannot be withheld.

Provided sufficient eligible Competitors are entered, 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements must be awarded in that order to the respective Competitors.

CONTEST POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1. Smoking will not be allowed in the ring or in any area of the facility where there are show activities.
2. Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that a dog is absent, disqualified, or excused by the Judge.

No entry fees will be refunded if the Show cannot open or be completed by reason of riots, civil disturbances, fire, extreme and/or dangerous weather conditions, an Act of God, public emergency, act of a public enemy, strikes, or any other cause beyond the control of show management.

3. All types of grooming and styling methods and techniques are permitted: clipping, scissoring, straight shears, thinning shears, hand-stripping, plucking and carding. Use of snap-on combs is also permitted.

4. Competitors will have access to the ring 30 minutes prior to class start and must be set up and have their dogs ready for the judge's inspection at the time stated for pre-judging in the respective show Addendum. The class will begin as soon as the last entry is pre-judged. Competitors who are not set up in the ring at time shown for pre-judging will not be allowed to compete. Plan to be in the ring at least 15 minutes prior to pre-judging. An official clock can be found at the Ring Steward's desk.

5. The judges will visually examine the dogs prior to the start of the various classes to determine eligibility of the entry. Competitors will have the opportunity to call anything to the Judge's attention that might reflect poorly on the quality of their finished entry. Each Competitor must provide a comb for use by the Judge, should the Judge elect to comb through the dog's coat.

6. Competitors are responsible for supplying their dogs and grooming equipment, including crates, clippers, shears, brushes, combs, nooses, shampoos, etc. Competitor must supply dryer and grooming table/arm, unless show addendum states otherwise. Competitors must also supply towels and are prohibited from using hotel guest towels and/or linen. Equipment must be quiet enough so as not to cause a distraction for other Competitors or their dogs.

7. Due to the electrical problems incurred when circuits are over-loaded, hair dryers will not be allowed in the ring. Use of other equipment that requires excessive amperage, such as vacuum systems, etc., is also prohibited. Low amperage lighting will be allowed as long as it doesn't create a power problem or visual distraction to other Competitors.

8. Judge's critiques will be allowed in the ring if they do not interfere with set-up of the next class. Competitors may also seek critiques from their respective Division or Group Judges outside the ring. Critiques from other Judges would be deemed inappropriate.

9. Preference will not be shown to dog's size or labor-intensive techniques, inasmuch as they are allotted more time.

10. A Judge's Consultant will be available to act in an advisory capacity, should any Judge feel the need to exchange views with another professional pet styling expert.

11. Competitors are encouraged to dress professionally. Excessively tight or revealing attire is strongly discouraged. Styling smock is recommended during competition. Shoes (preferably with non-skid soles) must be worn. "Flip flops" and other open-toed shoes are considered to be unsafe ring attire and are discouraged.

Best In Show Awards Presentation dress code is "dressy/classy." Grooming attire or jeans/t-shirts will not be allowed. This dress code also applies to Competitors' Assistants. A show staff member will be appointed to present the entry of any Competitor who is inappropriately dressed for the Best In Show Awards Ceremony.

12. Each Competitor will be held financially responsible for damage to hotel and/or facility property. If Show Management is notified by the hotel and/or facility that a Competitor has allowed a dog(s) to become a public nuisance, soiled hotel and/or facility property in public areas without clean-up, or been charged for damage to a sleeping room, Competitor will be disqualified.

13. Competitors who use bathing and drying facilities, as designated and dictated by the show management and/or host facility, will be held financially responsible for any and all damage(s).

14. Competitors fraudulently entering classes for which they are not eligible will also be disqualified.

15. Disqualification for infraction of policy #12 and/or #13 will result in forfeiture of all titles, prize money, and trophies/plaques. Competitor will be banned from future competition, without benefit of registration fee refund. Notification of such disqualification will be sent to other Show Managers and GroomTeam USA.

16. Competitors are reminded that they have agreed to accept the decisions of Show Management as final and binding. Good sportsmanship is expected inside and outside the ring.

17. Written communication with the appropriate Show Manager is the professional method of resolving issues and is encouraged. Open communication between Show Management and Competitors is crucial to the growth of our industry. A Suggestion/Grievance form is provided in this publication.

Should a Competitor have a grievance related to the competition itself or another Competitor, the following procedure must be followed:

- a. Verbally notify the Contest Coordinator at time of occurrence, and
- b. Immediately submit a formal grievance, which must be submitted in writing, with verifying documentation, to the Contest Coordinator.

Grievance(s) will not be accepted after the close of the class, with the exception of sportsmanship issues, which must be submitted prior to the close of the show and while all involved parties are on site.

GENERAL RULES

1. Preparatory Work: All dogs should be freshly shampooed and dried, with ears cleaned, and toenails clipped prior to the competition.

For sanitary reasons, the genital and stomach areas can be pre-trimmed, according to the breed's standard. The pads under the feet may also be trimmed.

Poodle faces and feet may be trimmed up to two weeks prior to competition, but must be "fuzzy" enough to demonstrate proper line set and clipper expertise.

With the exception of the preparatory work listed herein, all other trimming, rubber-banding and styling of the dog's coat must be performed in the ring within the specified class time.

2. When time is up, it's up! With the exception of finishing sprays, nothing can be done to the entry other than re-combing of the coat. For example, placement of bands in show topknots would have to be done in the allotted class time.

Judges will not comb through the head/neck of entries in show trims requiring application of rubber bands, hair-spray or other coat-enhancement products.

3. Personal equipment must be removed from the ring after each class.

Large equipment cases and crates will not be allowed in the ring.

4. All dogs are to be crated and properly exercised while not being groomed. Please bring sufficient crates to house your dogs. All dogs must be on leash when not crated. Each competitor should bring plastic sheeting to be placed under and around the dog crates, plus newspaper and small plastic bags for disposal of dog waste, etc.

5. No shop, kennel, competitor sponsor, or other business entity may display its name or logo in the ring. This includes uniforms, jewelry, etc., by past and current GroomTeam members.

6. Dogs must not be left unattended on tables. Ask the Ring Steward for assistance if you must walk away from your table! Violators will be warned once; second violation will result in dismissal from the class!

7. Dyeing of dogs is not permitted. Color enhancing, however, is acceptable. For example, a black coat that is dull may be brightened or the black color highlighted and darkened, but it cannot be dyed to appear other than black. Chalk and chalk-like products are allowed, but table and surrounding area must be protected. All other color must be done prior to arrival on site.

8. Dogs should be presented for judging without bows, bandannas and/or nail polish.

9. Beverages may only be brought into the ring in "spill-proof" containers.
10. Radios and/or headsets may not be used in the ring. Cell phones and internet enabled devices must be turned OFF during pre-judging and class competition.
11. Visual aids, such as photos, books, dvd's, etc., may not be used in the ring.
12. Conversation in the Ring must be kept to a minimum; it is distracting to other Competitors and could be perceived as "coaching."
13. Photography is not allowed while the Competition is in progress.

United Showmanagers Alliance Judges Orientation/Training Class



**In response to requests by Competitors for
GroomTeam sanctioned competition standardization,
the founding/member shows have:**

- 1. Written and/or adopted standardized rules to apply to their three-tier, multi-level GroomTeam Sanctioned competitions;**
- 2. Established a Judges Training & Sanctioning Program.**

Open to all active Judges & Apprentices seeking United Showmanagers Alliance Sanctioning.

Pre-Registration Required.

A PowerPoint presentation to review the following:

**Contest Rules & Policies
GroomTeam USA Sanctioned Classes
Rules, Ring Etiquette, Responsibilities
Professional Demeanor & Dress Code
Pre-Judging, Disqualifications
Withholding Awards, Judge's Consultants
Choosing Winners, Awards Procedure
Judge's Evaluation Sheets, Grievance Procedure
Breed Profile Evaluations**

**Register on-line at www.unitedshowmanagersalliance.com.
Click on "Forms," then "Judge's Application."**

*Improving Pet Styling
Competitions Through
Standardization*



sportsmanship
code of ethics
USA Form 1, Publication Date 10/1/09

SPORTSMANSHIP CODE OF ETHICS

As Adopted By
The United Showmanagers Alliance
Effective 12/1/08

TRUE SPORTSMEN:

1. Conduct themselves with integrity, courtesy and commitment to the sport and the competitive spirit.
2. Abide by the rules, guidelines, policies and procedures set forth by the individuals and organizations that govern our sport.
3. Are always considerate of the well-being of the pets entrusted to their care.
4. Are respectful and considerate of fellow Competitors, Colleagues, Judges, Show Managers and their Representatives.
5. Are respectful of show facilities and grounds.
6. Conduct themselves with a high level of civility, decorum, poise and humility, regardless of the outcome of an event or contest.
7. Do not disparage, defame or slander any Competitor(s), Judge(s), or Show Manager(s) or their Representatives.

POOR SPORTSMANSHIP MAY BE DEFINED AS, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Disparaging or derogatory language or conduct toward any Competitor(s), Judge(s) or Show Manager(s) or their Representatives.
2. Cruelty, abuse or neglect of animals.
3. Leaving the contest ring without permission or refusal to follow instructions or protocol set forth by Show Management, their Representatives or their Judges.
4. Belligerent, rude and/or discourteous conduct toward any Competitor(s), Judge(s) or Show Manager(s) or their Representatives, or any other industry official or individual.
5. Intent to sabotage any Competitor(s), Judge(s), Show Manager(s), or other individual(s) by gossip, rumor, hearsay, disparagement, defamation or slander.
6. Premeditated or malicious damage to any equipment of a Competitor or to show property.
7. Attempting to influence Judges or their decisions.
8. Public rejection, disposal or destruction of awards.

Failure To Abide

by the aforementioned principles of sportsmanship could result in denial of entry at future USA shows, forfeiture of any titles, monies, awards, and eligibility for any points attained from the competition, and GroomTeam USA will be informed of all proceedings.

Formal Grievance

must be submitted in writing to respective Show Manager, and must stipulate concerned parties and issues for consideration in accordance with show rules and guidelines. Grievance(s) will not be accepted after the close of the class, with the exception of sportsmanship issues, which must be submitted prior to the close of the show and while all involved parties are on site.

My signature below acknowledges that I have read and understand the Sportsmanship Code of Ethics and agree to abide by it.

SHOW NAME: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

*Improving Pet Styling
Competitions Through
Standardization*



**SUGGESTION/
GRIEVANCE FORM**
USA Form 3, Publication Date 10/1/09

Competitor's Name _____
Business Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone (Home) _____ (Business) _____ (Cell) _____
E-Mail _____

Suggestion _____

Grievance _____

Class _____ Judge _____

Your Placement () 1st () 2nd () 3rd () None

Documentation/Verification _____

Competitors are reminded that they have agreed to accept the decisions of Show Management as final and binding. Good sportsmanship is expected inside and outside the ring. Publicly criticizing a Judge reflects poorly on a competitor; however, written communication with the appropriate Show Manager is the professional method of resolving issues and is, therefore, encouraged. Open communication between Show Management and Competitors is crucial to the growth of our industry.

Should a Competitor have a grievance related to the competition, the Competitor must:

- a. **Verbally** notify the Contest Coordinator at time of occurrence, and
- b. **Immediately** complete a formal grievance, which must be submitted in writing, with verifying documentation, to the Contest Manager or Contest Coordinator.

Grievance(s) will not be accepted after the close of the class, with the exception of sportsmanship issues, which must be submitted prior to the close of the show and while all involved parties are on site.

By my signature I am hereby stating that the information is true and accurate.

Competitor's Signature _____ Date _____

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**COMPETITOR ENTRY
VALIDATION FORM**

USA Form 2, Publication Date 10/1/09

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRY, INTERMEDIATE, & SPECIAL CLASS COMPETITORS & SUBMITTED WITH REGISTRATION
NOT REQUIRED FOR OPEN COMPETITORS!**

Name _____

Industry Status (Mark All That Apply)

- Bather/Prep Tech Student Apprentice Pet Stylist
 Instructor Certifier Judge Breeder
 Professional Handler Owner/Handler

Bather/Prep-Tech Experience 0-6 Months 7-12 Months Over 12 Months

School Experience Date Started _____ Date Graduated _____

School Attended _____ Phone # _____

Apprentice Experience Date Started _____ Date Promoted _____

Shop/Instructor's Name _____ Phone # _____

Grooming Experience 0-6 Months 6-12 Months 1-5 Years Over 5 Years

AKC Handling/Breeding Experience

Organization Breed Highest Win # Finished Champions

Contest History

<u>Date</u>	<u>Show Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Win Placement</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Additional History May Be Submitted Via Attachment

TRAVEL CHECK LIST

Items listed below are a compilation from input by experienced competitors of “musts” when traveling with a pet. While you may not consider every item a necessity, the list is supplied as an aid in packing for your trip.

Mandatory

- _____ Crate (1 Per Dog)
- _____ Grooming Table, Arm, Noose (See show Addendum)
- _____ Dryer
- _____ Grooming Equipment
- _____ Plastic (Goes Under & Around Crate)
- _____ Plastic Bags (Food, Dirty Towels, Dog Waste)
- _____ Water
- _____ Water Bottle/Bowl
- _____ Food Bowl
- _____ Food
- _____ Medications
- _____ First Aid Supplies
- _____ Dog's Blanket
- _____ Towels (**Do Not Use Hotel Guest Towels**)
- _____ Paper Towels
- _____ Collar/Leash
- _____ Air Freshener
- _____ Carpet Cleaner
- _____ Disinfectant
- _____ Comfortable Safe Shoes & Clothing
- _____ Appropriate, Professional Attire For Ring, Awards, & Photos
- _____ Emergency Phone #'s For Dog Owners

Strongly Suggested

- _____ Camera (Before/After Photo of Room)
- _____ Crate Covers
- _____ Toys/Treats
- _____ Newspaper
- _____ Febreze
- _____ Barker Breaker
- _____ Tiny Flash Light
- _____ Non-Perishable Snacks/Soda
- _____ Odor Ban
- _____ Baby Wipes
- _____ Disinfectant Wipes
- _____ Plastic Storage Container
To Neatly Organize All Supplies



Not Cleaning Up
After Your Pet
STINKS!!!

United Showmanagers Alliance Members:



All American Grooming Show, 791 Beau Dr., Des Plaines, IL 60016

Phone 847-364-4547, Fax 847-364-0690

Website: www.aagrmgshow.com

E-mail aagrmgshow@wowway.com



Atlanta Pet Fair, 4119 Bancroft Circle, Tucker, GA 30084

Phone 770-908-9857, Fax 770-908-9856

Website: www.atlantapetfair.com

E-mail: atlantapetfair@yahoo.com



Groomer SuperShow, 135 W Lemon Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016

Phone 626-447-2222, Fax 626-447-8350

Website: www.superzoo.org/groomer

Email: kathy@wpamail.org



CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The integrity and ethical standards of GroomTeam USA sets industry standards in the competition ring and the pet styling industry. The integrity and perception of misconduct related to the relationship of the show management/judge/competitor is an important factor in maintaining GroomTeam's ethical standards and high moral character.

The GroomTeam Code of Ethics unequivocally states that the Board is expected to "Establish specific ethical standards to guide GroomTeam directors and members, as well as competitors, that are vying for a position as a GroomTeam USA member."

To avoid the perception of a conflict of interest, the following protocol must be followed:

GroomTeam Voting Board Members & Team Coordinator

May not accept Judging assignments in Open Divisions or for Group Awards.

Competitors

Competitors who are employed by Show Management or involved in the production of the Competition may not compete in GroomTeam Sanctioned Classes.

Competitors may not compete under Judges with the following relationship:

- 1) Relative
- 2) Entry provided by Judge
- 3) Vested business relationship, defined as an involvement having the element of personal gain, within the past 12 months.

Examples of a vested business relationship:

- (a) Employee/Employer/Subcontractor of Judge
 - (b) Salon or other business ownership with Judge
 - (c) Consulting business relationship with Judge
 - (d) Professional Handler services for/with Judge
 - (e) Business Partnership with Judge
- 4) Competitor may not have engaged in a Mentoring Relationship Within Past 12 Months, defined as follows:
 - (a) Private instruction with Judge
 - (b) Instructor/Student/Apprentice relationship with Judge

Allowed:

- (a) Seminars from stage environment
- (b) Instruction to a class of ten or more attendees
- (c) Post Competition Critiques

Show Management

- 1) Should not offer advice or suggest placement of any Competitor to Judges.
- 2) May not utilize services of Judges who:
 - (a) Are employed by Show Management and/or involved in the production of the Competition
 - (b) Are relatives of Show Management
 - (c) Have a vested business relationship, defined as an involvement having the element of personal gain, with Show Management

Examples of a Vested Business Relationship:

- (a) Employee/Employer of Show Management
- (b) Salon or other business ownership with Show Management
- (c) Consulting business relationship with Show Management
- (d) Professional Handler services for/with Show Management
- (e) Business Partnership with Show Management
- (f) CEO, Owner, or Board Member of Organization offering Contest Management Service

The following are not considered as having a vested business relationship with Show Management:

- (a) Authors/Subcontractors who work on a free-lance basis with Show Management.
- (b) Judges under the supervision of a Competition Management Organization, such as International Judges Association or United ShowManagers Alliance.

If a judging assignment changes after a show catalog goes to print, the show manager will do everything in their power to notify all affected competitors. GroomTeam points will be accepted if a judging assignment changes within 24-48 hours of show opening.

It is important to note that GroomTeam Sanctioned Shows do not award GroomTeam points for their competitions. That task falls to the GroomTeam Board of Directors.

Failure to adhere to above protocol could result in the loss of points awarded by the GroomTeam Board to a Competitor, and/or loss of sanctioning of the Show in violation.

Policy revised and accepted December 4, 2010, by the GroomTeam Board of Directors:

Lisa Leady, Marea Tully, Teresa Dreese



POINT TABULATION SYSTEM

PROCEDURE

- 1 Show Management reports the number of entries and the class placements to the GroomTeam USA Team Coordinator.
- 2 Results must be submitted on the official forms within 15 days of the competition completion.
- 3 GroomTeam Coordinator determines the number of points to be awarded, based on the results submitted and is responsible for posting to the GroomTeam USA website.
- 4 The top ten Competitors are announced at the end of each year.
- 5 At the end of the second year, the "Traveling Team" is determined by the total number of points accumulated each year. The highest point holders, based on separate years, are granted the honor of representing the United States on behalf of GroomTeam USA.

POINT SCHEDULE

Division Shows: Entries Judged From Non-Restrictive, Open Division Are Counted
(Intergroom has been grandfathered as a Restricted Open Division)

Tiered Shows: Entries Judged From Entry, Intermediate, and Open Divisions and
Awarded At Group Level Are Counted

<u># Of Entries Judged</u>	<u>1st Place</u>	<u>2nd Place</u>	<u>3rd Place</u>
1-2	0	0	0
3	1	0	0
4	2	1	0
5-7	3	2	1
8-10	4	3	2
11-14	5	4	3
15 Or More	8	6	4

BONUS POINTS

<u># Of Entries Judged</u>	<u>Best Groomed Dog In Show</u>	<u>Best All Around Competitor</u>
6-24	2	4
25-49	4	8
50 Or More	8	16

Special classes such as Creative Styling, Championship Tournaments, Invitationals, or other special or restrictive classes will not be awarded GroomTeam USA, Inc.® points.

The “Traveling Team” Alternate Member is selected using the Best All Around Competitor points awarded for the two year period.

In the event a Show does not offer a Best All Around Competitor Award, GroomTeam USA, Inc.® will determine the points based on the placements provided by Show Management.

If the tabulation is done by GroomTeam USA, Inc.®, and there is a tie, the most placements wins. If there is still a tie, winner will be determined by the Competitor who has beaten the most entries. If a tie still exists, points will be shared by the Competitors.

Policy revised and accepted November 8, 2010, by the GroomTeam Board of Directors:

Lisa Leady, Marea Tully, Teresa Dreese

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COLOR/ACCESSORY
APPLICATION POLICY
USA Form 23 Publication Date 11/22/11

Policy applies to entries in GroomTeam Sanctioned Classes as well as Special Classes.

Lifting of natural color is not permitted. Exception will be made for removal of small stained areas, such as on a Bichon's face.

Color enhancing, however, is acceptable, using non-toxic products listed below. For example, a black coat that is dull may be brightened or the black color highlighted and darkened, but it cannot be dyed to appear other than black. Chalk and chalk-like products are allowed, but table and surrounding area must be protected. All color that is applied, requires a wait/set time, then rinsed, must be done prior to arrival on site.

Judges will examine each entry prior to class judging, and disqualify all entries with skin irritation believed to be caused by toxic products.

Competitors must list products used for color enhancement, color change or accessory application on their registration form.

Competitors will be held to an "honor system" of policy enforcement. Competitors who have sound proof that another Competitor has violated the policy may file a grievance, but must do so before the competition commencement.

APPROVED NON-TOXIC PRODUCTS

Pet Dyes: Queen Of Color (ShowSeason)
Hair Dye Gels (Top Performance)
Pet Esthe

Other Dyes: Manic Panic, Adore, Kiss Express, Jerome Russell Punky Colors,
Avatar Funky Fruits, Jazzing, N'Rage, Food Coloring

Chalks

Special Classes Only

Temporary Products: Blo Pens, Sprayzas Airbrush Pens, Colored Styling Gels, Colored Hairsprays

Glues (For Accessories): Water-soluble only

PROHIBITED TOXIC/INAPPROPRIATE PRODUCTS

Color "Lifters": Permanent dye or bleach, including hydrogen peroxide. (See above exception for stain removal)

Oxidizing Dyes: Dyes that are not purchased ready to use and/or must be mixed with a developer, such as hydrogen peroxide

Hot Glue Guns

"Sharpie" type permanent markers

Duct tape, carpet tape or any other substance that pulls on the skin or hair to remove

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