**Basic Grooming Course Outline:**

**During the Entirety of this course we will be referring to written materials in the manual “notes from the grooming table”, as well as “The theory of 5”. Both books will be provided to each student with heir equipment.**

**This Course will take place Monday Wednesday Friday 8 hours per day. Totaling 36 full day classes that Total 288 Instructional Hours.**

**We will be using the equipment provided, book materials provided, and hands on work. Each day will consist of one on one Instructional time.**

**Each Student will be Accredited as a “Professional Pet Groomer” and receive a certificate of course completion. We also prepare our students throughout this course to be ready to take their written and practical Pet Stylist Exams through Canadian Professional Pet Stylists. (CPPS)**

**Weeks 1-4**

**Bathing and Drying**

Bathing and drying are the most important parts of any grooming service. For example look at how a Bath and Tidy price is almost more than half of a Full Groom Price. Why is this? It is because the owner is paying a large portion of their groom for a clean dog, and also a dry dog to a standard very difficult for an owner to achieve without proper equipment. As a groomer you will quickly learn that your work is a lot easier on a clean dog with straightened and blow dried hair. The clippers clip very easily through clean hair and the wear and tear on your blades will be minimal compared to dirty hair. Scissoring also is made a lot easier by clean fluffy hair. Fully blow dried hair makes it a lot easier to clip smoothly without a choppy look after and also cuts down on your brushing and scissoring time afterward. In other words bathing and drying are the main and most important skills to perfect in grooming as they affect every step after them!

Bathing: To bathe a dog properly, wet them thoroughly, mix the appropriate type shampoo for the hair type of dog and according to the dogs skin sensitivity if they have any. For example, whitening shampoo for white to light colored dogs, and hypoallergenic shampoo for dogs with dry or sensitive skin. Use a lot of shampoo. You can never use too much shampoo. Lather the shampoo using your fingers or a rubber scrubbing brush to get down to the dogs skin. Feel the hair, as it becomes slippery and soapy feeling you know it is clean, if it is still a bit rough or gritty than rinse and shampoo a second time. Never add more and more soap, soap doesn’t clean soap, so rinse and bathe a second time. Always focus your bathing on the dirtiest areas, paws, butts, faces and ears. These areas need extra attention and scrubbing, and sometimes require full strength undiluted shampoo to clean properly. Some breeds may require several baths simply because they have thick oily coats such as cocker spaniels and golden retrievers.

Drying: There are many different forms and combinations to drying dogs.

Force Drying: Using a force dryer is usually the fastest. Use the force dryer to to completely dry the dogs body, then remove the condenser nozzle and fluff up the face, kennel dry for the dampness remaining on the ears and tail.

Stand Drying: Some breeds can and should be completely stand dried. Dogs in long flowing or silky coats look best when stand dried so that their coats lie in a nice direction. Breeds like yorkies, or a full show coat Shih Tzu.

Kennel Drying: Kennel drying should only be used as a single method of drying with difficult dogs, cats, or sometimes in cases of thick double coated breeds where force drying or stand drying would take just as much time and effort, where as kennel drying you can dry one dog while working on a few others at the same time, a breed like a retriever towel dried and kennel dried, or a matted dog who has been shaved extremely short are good examples of times when kennel dryers can be used exclusively.

**Completion Date:**

**Teachers Comments:**

**Score Out of 10:**

**(scores rated according to 1 being “Needs Substantial Practice” and 10 being “Perfected Skills”)**

**Weeks 5-8**

**Kennel Clips and Grooming Rhythm**

Kennel Clips: Kennel clips are the different lengths of metal blades that can be used for an all over length on a dog. Kennel clips generally are one length all over the entire body. The lengths that can be used are

#10(usually for severely matted dogs only or double coated shaves)

#7 short for the summer months

#5 little bit longer but not too long

#4 longer bordering on a short teddy bear

Starting at the back of the neck hold the clippers at a slight angle and do long strokes with a bit of force not too much. Learn to adjust your wrist position with the curves of the dog’s body for an even finish. Handle the legs with care as to not make the dog uncomfortable or move its limbs in positions that are not natural for the animal. The most important thing is to maintain the exact same amount of pressure and position of blade to body all the time despite the changing contours of the dog’s hills and valleys.

Rhythm: Learning the steps for each groom is important and you need to get into a rhythm and make each step habit. This is the steps you should always follow.

1. Bath and dry
2. Brush out
3. Shave paw pads out
4. Trim nails
5. Shave groin

These are the steps that should be taken before starting each groom and in that order every time. Make it habit to do so this way you will never forget to do the nails or trim up a groin.

**Completion Date:**

**Teachers Comments:**

**Score Out of 10:**

**Weeks 8-10**

**Teddy Bears Cuts and Breed Trims**

Teddy Bear Cuts are usually longer hair cuts done in either the entire body one length leaving the dog fluffy and cute like a teddy bear or with the legs slightly longer than the body called a teddy bear lamb style. This leaves the dog fluffy and cute but with a bit more shape. We use attachment combs that attach to a #10 or #15 blade. Take your time and pretend your combing the dog. Do not angle the comb use it close to flush with the body in shorter strokes. Make sure your dog has no tangles before attempting to cut the hair as the combs cannot get through tangled hair.

Breed Clips are very specific to each breed. Refer often to a good grooming book that describes each bread standard and has pictures of the finished result. I is rare that you see or groom a purebred dog but when you do it can be a good show of your skills. Be sure to ask the clients lots of questions to be sure you are doing it how they would like. Also ask for pictured of how they in vision their dog as many people have different ideas on how a breed cut should look.

**Completion Date:**

**Teachers Comments:**

**Score Out of 10:**

**Weeks 10-12**

**Hand Scissoring, Finishing Touches, and Faces**

Scissoring is a skill that will take years to truly perfect, but practice makes perfect! Scissor with confidence but focus always being aware of where your entire shear is cutting. Watch your teacher carefully studying how they hold the hand wrist and position their body. Scissoring has a lot to do with how you position your actual body in relation to the dog and area you are scissoring. Long strokes and cuts are better than short chunky ones that are hard to blend. Use a comb and not your fingers to constantly check your work and continue scissoring.

A finish on a dog looks truly amazing when all the little sticky out bits are trimmed and the dog looks sharp and finished. Perfecting your scissoring will set you apart from being a good groomer to being a great groomer

Faces are very hard to do and take talent to learn how to interpret what the client wants and also what would suit each dog best. For breed clips follow breed standards for kennel clips a bit shorter trimmed face is usually appropriate and for teddy bears a fluffy round face with more beard for the males. Always clean up the bridge of the nose and under the eyes to keep it clean and sanitary.

**Completion Date:**

**Teachers Comments:**

**Score Out of 10:**

**Teachers Final Comments for future employer:**

**Students Name:**

**Teacher Signature:**

**Date:**