"THE GROOMING INDUSTRY'S TRADE MAGAZINE"

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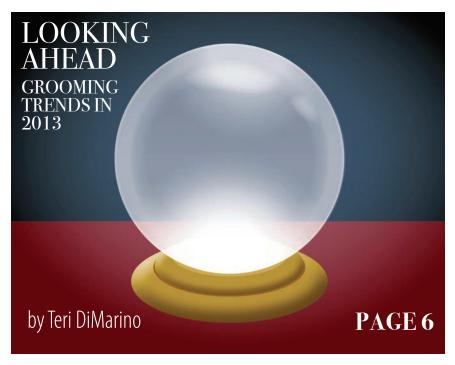
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🛪 by Teri DiMarino 🔊

have recently upgraded my crystal ball and am now running the new 2013.1 software. I have good feelings about this version, and I think it's going to be better than other versions I've had over the past few years. But I'm not sure how compatible it is going to be with some of my older hardware. It's definitely going to take some getting used to, but I am willing to switch gears mentally and attempt to adapt.

Many of us have already "adapted" to the most recent trends, and there is no denying that things have changed in the pet grooming industry over the past several years. We optimistically entered the 21st century

with equity in our homes, money in our pockets, and smiles on our faces. Our businesses were no longer grooming "shops" but "salons" that offered "spa" services. "Dog grooming shop" sounded too much like a low-cost service provider, so we became a "pet styling salon," making it easier to justify a price raise. Kennels offered "lodging" and "suites," and the word "daycare" entered many of our vocabularies. Business was good.

Our industry was feeling pretty invincible. Then things began crashing down around us. Unemployment figures went up as our gross income went down. Customers who would cringe if Fluffy went beyond four weeks for her

bath had to stretch out their appointments to every five or six weeks.

But the cream has risen to the top. Many poor quality salons closed, and while the good salons may have lost some appointments, they did not lose customers. People continued to take care of their pets as best as they could. From what I am seeing in my crystal ball, business appears to be picking up, even though the country is still in the midst of a recession. People are starting to spend again.

Booting up my newly installed "CB 2013.1," and without sounding like Miss Cleo or the Long Island Medium, I think I can see a few trends in our industry coming through the fog for



the upcoming year. Many salons will still successfully offer spa treatments and specialty packages. While these spa services are a wonderful addition to the salon's bottom line, I believe we will be seeing an increase in other addon services coupled with an increase in retail. Breath freshening procedures and other at-home retail products that the customer can use daily offer immediate results that can easily be demonstrated in the salon. These products are proving very beneficial to the pets and the salon's profit line, as well.

I have always touted retail as the "silent partner" for a salon. Resale items like the aforementioned breath freshening product are easy to market, because the customer sees instant results. Here is one rule of retail in our business: use what you sell and sell what you use. It's easy to sell something that you believe in and have a passion for. That belief makes

retail easy.

I see salons going "retro" with their customer service. We are, after all, a service industry. Big box stores threatened many a small business with their "bigger is better" and "discount" philosophy back in the '90s, leaving many Mom & Pop businesses feeling inadequate and non-competitive. But as my Australian industry friend, Les Speerin, put it, "If you just want to fill your belly, you go to McDonald's. If you want a great meal, you go to a great restaurant." I can't think of a better analogy! While there is certainly a place in the world for *McDonald's* (they have definitely proved that), people get tired of eating there. Smart salon owners are going that extra mile to make customers feel appreciated.

While some stylists constantly complain about badly behaved pets or owners (you know who you are), others are thankful that they have a job to go to and customers to work with. While it's okay to vent about the occasional ill-tempered dog or client, some groomers allow themselves to be consumed by this poor attitude, and it can drag an entire salon down. We should all feel fortunate to have jobs! We do not have to go home with these people or their pets, so get in there, get the job done safely and efficiently, and send them home happy and satisfied. We all need to give our clients the best work we possibly can. The client has the choice of going to any salon they choose, so don't give them a reason to choose a different salon. That's money out of your pocket.

One way Crystal Ball 2013.1 sees pet stylists stepping up their game is in the realm of continued education. While there are still many groomers out there who honestly believe that they know it all and a seminar couldn't possibly teach them anything new,





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most good groomers and salon owners are keenly aware that in order for them to keep their edge in the business, they must keep abreast of styles, techniques, products, and business tactics. There are trade shows and educational events around the country, and while one may not be in your backyard, these events are well worth attending. Groomer to Groomer magazine publishes a calendar of events, and anybody who navigates any of the social media sites knows that there are tons of smaller seminars or webinars scheduled all over the country. Even if a stylist is well versed in a particular area, attending an industry event is a wonderful shot of adrenalin.

A hot, new trending area in our industry is online study. While anybody with a clipper and scissor can make a *YouTube* video, many of these are not geared toward the accomplished professional. It is easy for a salon to

have an in-house library consisting of printed matter and professional videos of techniques, breed profiles, and styles. Advanced technique DVD videos have been popularized by Jodi Murphy with her "Instructional Series" as well as Sue Zecco and Jay Scruggs' "Super Styling Sessions" videos. Videos can be viewed at leisure to improve one's styling or to maintain consistency in the salon.

A relatively new, very convenient video series is *Learn2GroomDogs*. *com*. The brainchild of Melissa Verplank (*Notes From the Grooming Table* author), *Learn2GroomDogs.com* is a subscription-based instructional video log geared toward the professional. Select payment plans allow unlimited access to a continually updated online streaming video library, offering breed styles, techniques, and other valuable information demonstrated by top stylists in our industry. All of these con-

tinued educational tools do nothing but give our salons consistency while giving us a leg up on the competition.

Another huge information source is the groomer message boards. *Barkleigh's* message board, *PetGroomer. com*, and *GroomersNetwork.com* are just a few of the sites offering informational message boards and blogs. These are an insomniac's dream, as you can focus in on specific topics, ask questions, get answers, and just interact with others within our industry.

Speaking of computers, the crystal ball is seeing huge trends in social media and its place in our salons. Once just flipped off as something we do in our spare time, social media sites are fast becoming an effective means of communication with our current and potential customers. *Facebook* and *Twitter*, the two most popular social networks, allow you to put your best foot forward, reaching out to your







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clients with information about you and your salon. Words like "friending," "sharing," and "liking" are quickly finding their way into our cyber vocabulary. But be very careful what you post. A good rule to follow is "if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

Another helpful tool in keeping in touch with customers is texting. Sometimes a "call and reconfirm" just won't do. Texting may actually be the best way to reach that client to remind them of their upcoming appointment.

The Internet has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, making the Yellow Pages a relic of the past. Slick websites give customers nearly all the information they may need about you, your salon, and the services you provide. Virtual tours of your business allow people to peek into the inner workings of a well orchestrated salon. You can post your location, services

offered, policies, and biographies of your staff. I do not recommend posting prices, as there are too many variables in this area. While there are ways for people to book their appointments online, we still want the customer to pick up the phone and talk to us. Remember: when you answer the phone, SMILE. The person on the other end of the line can "see" it.

One Internet area that is relatively unknown to many groomers are the customer review sites like *Yelp.com* or *Angie's List*. These are sites where consumers can find businesses, restaurants, or pretty much anything else and read and leave reviews. Be careful, as sometimes a disgruntled customer may leave a negative review. Some of these sites allow the business owner to respond to a review, but be careful how you word that response. You are under the proverbial microscope when you reply. These are like big, cyber word-of-

mouth sites.

Our computers have integrated themselves into our lives and businesses. Consider investing in a good computer software program to help keep your files and conduct your business. The most difficult part of assimilating your salon into the cyber age is tossing away the appointment book. Naturally there is the initial separation anxiety, but you get over it very quickly, especially when you learn of some of the slick features of computerized files. One of my favorites is when a program integrates caller ID with your client base. On the second ring of the phone, the calling customer is displayed on your computer monitor, giving you a "heads up" as to who is on the phone. Many programs feature help in payroll and integration of income into bookkeeping software such as Quick Books.

One corner of my "see all ball" is looking a bit ominous. It appears in



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the area of legislation, something that became very familiar with the last software upgrade, Crystal Ball 2012.7. I see a lot of work to be done by pet stylists in an effort to selfpolice our industry and keep it out of the hands of people who do not know our industry like we do. Well intended legislation written by the wrong people will be toxic if professionals do not step up to the plate and stop it or at least rewrite it into something workable for the pets, their owners, and the professionals alike. One thing I can predict is that these endeavors will not be successful unless everybody participates. Stylists with their heads in the sand will be left by the wayside, complaining all the way. This is where we will all need to load the upcoming software upgrades: Continued Education 2013.2 and Industry Involvement 2013.4.

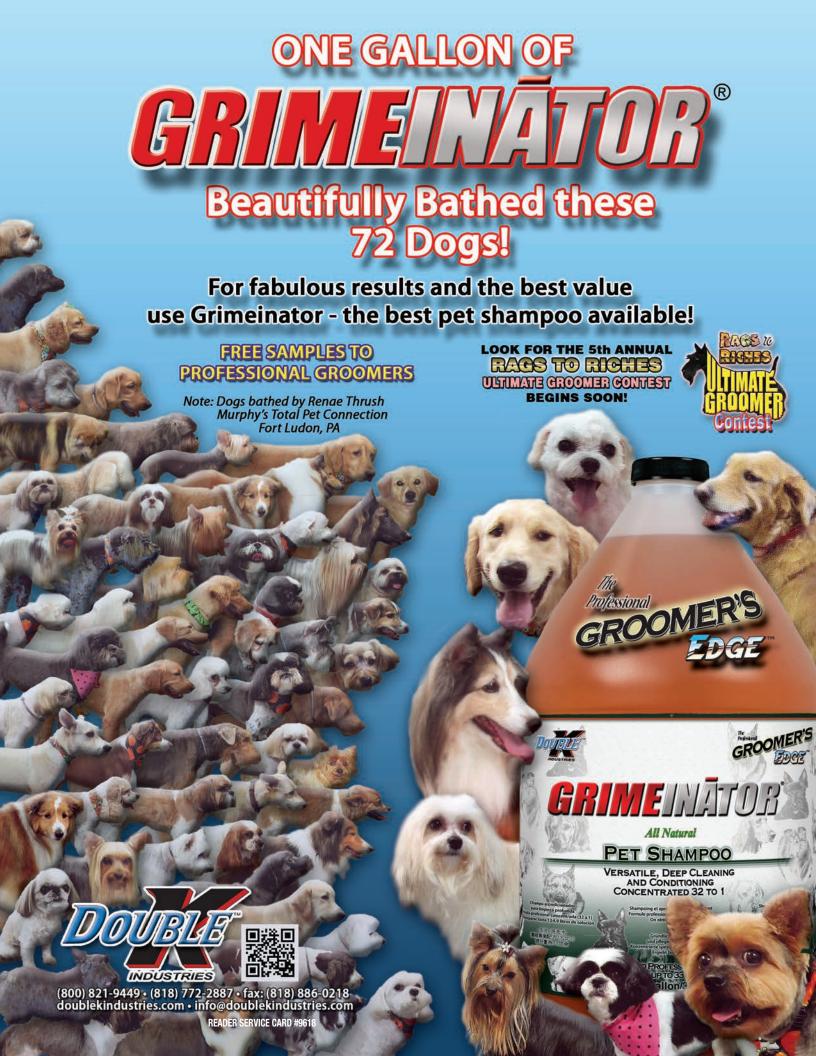
While Crystal Ball 2013.1 appears to be looking at an educational and cyber year, there are things that this 2013.1 cannot possibly replace: the kiss from a wet-nosed, fourlegged friend; puppy breath; and having the friendly old dog come in for one more visit. Things like that make me glad I'm a pet groomer. (Oops... I mean stylist!)

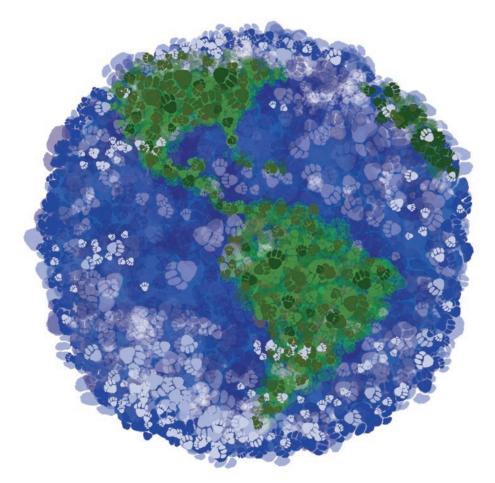
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⋾ by Missi Salzberg ⋷

ichael is white. He is kind of shy and nervous, and he has epilepsy. He has to be careful not to put himself in stressful situations, because it can trigger his seizures.

Cosita is latina. Her family is from Puerto Rico, which makes her American, and yet she lives in a world where her family's first language is not spoken by many, and members of her family are not fluent in English — yet.

Harley's people are Irish, and I mean Boston "Southie" Irish. He is white and blends right in.

Riley lost his leg in a bad car accident, but he is absolutely unlimited by his challenge and runs right into the store when he visits.

Fergie is black and has two moms, both of whom are white. She is very small, but she likes to get right in the middle of all of the bigger kids that are playing in daycare.

Doggy daycare, that is, because *Michael*, *Cosita*, *Harley*, *Riley*, and *Fergie* are all dogs. Yes, dogs, my friends. Dogs with disabilities and challenges, different family ethnicities, different sets of parents, and different colors, and yet they are all... dogs.

So when *Michael* looks at *Fergie*, what does he see? A little black dog with two female owners? No, *Michael* just sees another dog. When *Harley* meets *Riley* in the groom room, does he make a judgment about him and his challenges? No, he just sees a bigger

dog that he sniffs nose to nose, and the introduction is the same as with the four-legged dog he sniffed a moment ago. And *Cosita* never has to deal with any discrimination based on her native tongue, because dogs all bark the same language!

We have so much to learn from our canine friends. The world is everchanging, and the makeup of who we are, the color of our skin, who we are married to, and the language we speak get more and more diverse with each passing year. Regardless of what political party you belong to, the election this past November showed us an American people that is more different than it is similar. The face of who we are as Americans has more shades than



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ever before, and it will only get more diverse, not less, as time goes by. I, for one, embrace this incredible spectrum of what it means to be American through a lens that focuses on citizenship, patriotism, and belief in freedom and not on skin color, religious beliefs, who we choose to love, or our income.

As this world changes and the population we serve gets more diverse, it is important to recognize this in our places of business. For some of us in busy, urban areas, this shift has been going on for years. For others, nothing in their more rural neighborhoods has changed. But we all have the same important lessons to learn. We must welcome these diverse populations into our businesses, be more educated about our own communities, and strive to be inclusive and boldly accepting of the variety of customers that choose to do business in our establishments.

There are some incredibly impor-

tant things you need to know about all of the people that bring their pets into your business. Regardless of their race, gender, income, or whatever microscope you may put them under, they all have three vitally important things in common. First, they are making a conscious decision to do business with you. They have invested in this relationship by being there, walking through the door, or picking up the phone. Second, they trust you with the care of a beloved family member. We all know how deep this love for pets can be, and it is not a small decision for them to leave their babies in our care. Third, and this is where the bottom line kicks in, whether they are white or brown or yellow or purple, their money — if it is U.S. currency is green. When it comes to the bottom line and being a successful business person, we should all be color blind.

How do we open our businesses

to this diversity? How do we manage some of our own struggles with other peoples' realities and lives? How do we create an atmosphere of acceptance and openness to diversity? Some people may say at this point, "I won't! I will have a business that welcomes only people like me and that's it!" You folks may want to skip to the next article at this point or maybe, just maybe, be open and able to listen just a little longer.

There are so many factors that contribute to great customer service. I have written about them many times over the years. Good phone manners, greeting people with a smile, knowledge of products, etc. Let me focus just a little bit of great customer service for an ever-growing diverse customer base. It is like taking a great photograph. You just have to tweak your focus a little or maybe step outside your comfort zone and work the lens







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dust the inside of the ears with

ear powder, pulling out any dead hair from the ear canal with your fingers or a Hairmostat* hair puller. Then, clean the inside of the ears using cotton balls lightly dampened with an ear cleaner.

1. Ear Cleaning: First lightly

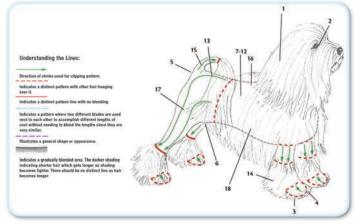
- 2. Wipe the corner of the eye and under the eye with a cotton ball moistened with saline solution to remove eye debris.
- 3. Clip the hair from between the pads of the feet with a #15 blade. Use the clipper to remove any hair hanging off the edge of the pads. Clip the entire foot, front and rear, to the wrist bone, like a Poodle foot. See Note on Poodle Feet on the next page.
- 4. Cut or grind the nails, removing only that part of the nail that grows out beyond the quick.

Grooming Instructions

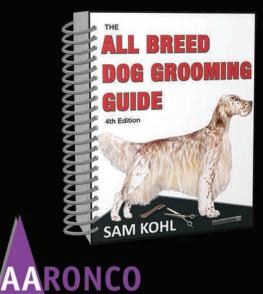
- Be careful not to cut into the quick.
- 5. Clip the hair away from the anal area, about one-half inch on either side of the anus, with a #10 blade. Never put the blade in direct contact with the anus.
- 6. Clip the hair from the stomach area, from the groin to the navel, using a #10 blade.
- 7. For shorter, easier-to-maintain styles, if you are going to be drastically shortening the coat, do it before the bath.
- 8. Brush the coat with a slicker brush, VRake* or dematting tool to loosen any tight mats. Use the

line-brushing technique of lifting the hair and brushing it down layer by layer.

9. Bathe thoroughly using a conditioning shampoo, rinse thoroughly. When the coat is still wet apply a conditioner and rinse off. Or, if the dog is in a shorter pet trim, not in full coat, use the tub and high-velocity method: Brush through the coat quickly breaking up any tightly matted areas with a flexible slicker brush, VRake* or dematting tool. Blow through the coat with a high-velocity dryer to loosen tangles. Always keep the nozzle far enough from the coat to avoid "whip mats." Lather in shampoo, blow out the lather with the high-velocity dryer, rinse lightly and repeat the bath and blow out, if necessary. Put on conditioner, blow out with the high-velocity dryer, and rinse thoroughly.



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from a different angle.

Here are some suggestions:

Recognize the different cultures in your service area. Whether they are cultures based on religious beliefs, nationality, or socioeconomic similarities, be aware of who you are serving. In our immediate area, we have a very active Jewish community, and we honor holidays for our Jewish customers. We honor the Christian holidays, too, but we strive to recognize everyone in our customer base. We also recognize other faith's holidays, and as we grow to know our customers, we will always be ready to acknowledge their celebrations and holy days.

What do I mean by socioeconomic "culture"? I am suggesting that in my customer base, and in many of yours, there are differing levels of income, education, and in our customers' core belief systems, different expectations about what customer service means to

them. For example, I am working class. I always have been. I have a particular ease with other people from my "class." We speak the same language and have many of the same struggles, and we identify with one another. I also have a pocket of customers that are wealthy, highly educated, and very "Old Yankee" New Englanders. I am not suggesting that they get "better" service, but I am suggesting that I must actively look for what they define as their expectations for great customer service and align myself to those expectations.

Here's an example. When Becky comes through the door with her Golden, I call her by her first name. I may shout, "Hey girl!" and smack her Golden on his big gold butt and call him a funny name. She is a vet tech at a local animal hospital, our parents knew each other, and we have very similar backgrounds. She doesn't care how long we keep her dog, because in her

mind, he is with friends for the day.

When Mr. Doherty comes in a few minutes later, I say, "Good morning, Mr. Doherty. How are you today, sir?" An elderly and distinguished man, he smiles at the good manners, and replies, "Wonderful! What time can I pick my baby up?" I have already made a space on the docket to get his beloved Poodle out early, because this is what is important to Mr. Doherty.

It is not that one customer deserves something better or deserves more respect or consideration. Rather, it is that we must identify what matters to our customers and meet them from that place. I will also add that I never allow any disrespect from any customer to either myself or my staff. We will always step up to meet our customers' wishes so long as they are communicated respectfully. Mr. Doherty is a little more high maintenance, but he is always a lovely gentleman.

Recognize that many cultures outside of the U.S. place great emphasis on the importance of relationships in their business dealings. The dynamics between the people doing business are key to many cultures. Be aware that people are looking for connection and not just a great haircut or a good value. As our community has changed, many of the referrals we have gotten are from person-to-person within similar cultures. I think this is one great advantage to the independently owned



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pet establishments. Personal, more intimate service is highly valued.

Be a great listener when you have new customers. Observe what they are placing value on. By paying attention and doing more listening, you can identify what a customer's priorities are. What do they talk about? What bits of information do they offer up in your initial meeting? Is there anything personal, or is it strictly business? You can identify what they are looking for beyond the actual service you offer. Yes, everyone wants a grooming for their pet, but what is important to them? Many customers allude to their faith, their career, their kids, or their down-time activities. Make mental notes to reconnect down the road.

Ask questions! I engage with my customers to learn new things about their lives whenever I can. If I feel that the door is cracked in our communication, then I want to learn. I won't always identify with my customers, but that doesn't mean I won't respect their

lives. We have a conservative religious community nearby, and the hierarchy of the genders is not anything I can identify with, any more than other people may identify with aspects of my life. As my customers, and as my fellow human beings on this planet, they respect me, and I respect them. After all, I grew up listening to my mother's tales of St. Francis of Assisi, one of her favorite saints because of his kind heart and love for all God's creatures. Likewise, we have several families from the evangelical culture who bring their dogs to us, because they know that their pets will be well-loved and that they will be treated honorably.

Finally, bring diversity into your own world. Hire a diverse staff. Fortunately my crew is the real rainbow connection, and that's a mirror of the spectrum of customers I want to draw into the shop. Have your staff on board to what it is you want to communicate to your customers. Place importance on being a welcoming establishment.

In an article by Rick Conlow, I found a tool called "PACT," which would be an easy sign to put up for your employees:

P: Practice being polite, respectful, and helpful with all people. (For example, no rude jokes or offensive stories allowed.)

A: Accept the differences in others without judgments. Accept the similarities, too.

C: Collaborate and communicate with all people by being a good listener.

T: Treat all people with dignity, fairness, and equal opportunity.

By opening your business place to the diverse population in our world, you will only be more successful, more aware, more able to service your customer base, and hopefully, more loving. That is another lesson we could always learn to do a little better from our dogs, isn't it? The whole unconditional love thing.





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GROOM EXPO

www.groomexpo.com

The Grooming Industry's Premier Event



Level Three Best In Show winner, Jennifer Lee with Connie Bailey of *PetSmart*.

room Expo welcomes nearly 5,000 groomers and other pet care professionals to the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA. After 25 years, *Groom Expo* continues to grow and maintains its title as the largest grooming show in the world.

Every September at *Groom Expo*, *Barkleigh* offers a weekend of events for the grooming industry, including four days of educational seminars. Classes include demonstrations and seminars by the leading experts in grooming, animal behavior, boarding, retail, and business.

The *Groom Expo* event also includes three full days of trade show, where attendees can find deals at over 170 booths. Products include clippers, shampoos, combs, tables, tubs, and thousands of other products – often at special show prices. The trade show is also an excellent opportunity to see products in action and to ask vendors questions.

In addition to world-class education and its huge trade show, Friday and Saturday at *Groom Expo* also feature the *GroomOlympics* competition, which will be *IJA* and *Groom-Team* sanctioned beginning in 2013. Beginner to expert groomers compete in four different classes: Poodle, All Other Purebreds, Salon Freestyle, and Sporting/Terriers and More. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three groomers in each of the three skill levels of the *GroomOlympics* Tournament. The top prize, sponsored by *PetSmart*, is \$5000 for the Level 3 *GroomOlympics World Champion*.

KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~ 5,000
EDUCATION: FOUR DAYS
TRADE SHOW: THREE DAYS
BOOTHS: >170
GROOMING CONTESTS: YES
CONTEST JUDGING: IJA
GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES
GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES
OTHER: BARKLEIGH HONORS
AWARDS CEREMONY, OPENING NIGHT PARTY, WEEKEND
LUNCHEONS, PUPPY PLAYGROUND, SILENT AUCTION
AND MUCH MORE!

SEPT. 19–22, 2013 HERSHEY PA

The competition also includes Sunday's ever popular creative styling contest. Groomers use their skill in styling and coloring to transform their dog into an impressive work of art. Following the grooming portion of the competition, the contestants present their entry to the judges and the audience, often using a skit or a song to entertain the crowd. Though the contestants are vying to be one of the top three groomers in the competition, they also hope to win the People's Choice Award and an appearance on the cover of Groomer to Groomer. Winning the cover is often

the motivation to win for many of the contestants.

Groom Expo is also one of the big grooming industry social events of the year. The opening night party is always a fun event and is free to all attendees. Previous themes have included a prom, cruise ship deck party, and a Wild West-themed party complete with mechanical bull. Prizes are often awarded to those with the best costume or to the winners of various contests during the party.

Saturday evening at *Groom Expo* features the prestigious *Barkleigh Honors Awards* dinner. Hosted by Jay Scruggs, the *Barkleigh Honors Awards* dinner is an annual event that celebrates and honors the accomplishments of the industry and individual groomers in categories like Competitive Groomer of the Year, Speaker of the Year, and Vendor of the Year. The awards also include the Sally Liddick Lifetime Achievement Award, whose previous winners are industry icons Sam Kohl and Jerry Schinberg.

Groom Expo 2013 runs from September 19 to 22 in Hershey, PA. Go to *www.groomexpo.com* for more information.

GROOM & KENNEL EXPO

The Grandest Grooming Show in the West



World Cup Grooming Games Champion, Deborah Ryan with (from left to right) *IJA* Judges Christine Speerin and Vivian Nash and Mary Meeks of *Nature's Specialties*.

room & Kennel Expo, the largest grooming show west of the Mississippi River, returns to Southern California for another exciting weekend of competition, trade show, and education. Attendees travel from as far as Australia and Japan to enjoy all that Groom & Kennel Expo has to offer. Last year's show brought nearly 3000 attendees to the Pasadena Convention Center, and Barkleigh expects that number to continue to grow in 2013.

Many groomers travel to Pasadena every February to participate in the grooming competitions held Friday through Sunday. Starting in 2013, groomers competing in the World Cup Grooming Games will have the opportunity to earn GroomTeam points as they vie for thousands of dollars in cash prizes. Three levels of competition skill will be offered in four different classes: Poodle, All Other Purebreds, Salon Freestyle, and Sporting/Terriers and More.

Another exciting grooming competition is Sunday's Creative Styling Contest, an event that has appeared on Animal Planet and was featured on *TLC's* "Extreme Poodles." The winner of the creative grooming *People's Choice Award* will appear on the cover of *Groomer to Groomer* magazine.

Attendees have three full days to peruse the aisles of the *Groom & Kennel Expo* trade show, taking advantage of special show deals and checking out some of the new-

KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~ 3,000
EDUCATION: FOUR DAYS
TRADE SHOW: THREE DAYS
BOOTHS: >100
GROOMING CONTESTS: YES
CONTEST JUDGING: IJA
GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES
GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES
OTHER: SILENT AUCTION
AND MUCH MORE!

FEB. 21-24, 2013 PASADENA CA

est products out on the market. With over 100 booths, the trade show is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on salon necessities or update equipment. Admission to the trade show also includes the viewing of grooming competitions and vendor demonstrations.

Industry experts will also offer demonstrations as part of the educational seminars available at *Groom & Kennel Expo*. Attendees will have the opportunity to take four days of classes, which include

grooming demos by champion groomers and hands-on first aid classes. Business and marketing experts from the pet care industry will also lead seminars to share their knowledge and expertise with attendees.

For the first time at *Groom & Kennel Expo*, Robin Bennett and Susan Briggs will be leading a special track of educational seminars dedicated to the boarding and daycare industry. They will be teaching 15 hours of classes about off-leash play groups, managing boarding kennel staff, and other related topics. Pet care professionals like kennel operators, dog daycare owners, or groomers who offer boarding services will enjoy classes focused on the successful operation of boarding and daycare facilities.

Groom & Kennel Expo runs from February 21 to 24, 2013 in Pasadena, CA. Go to www.groomandkennelexpo.com for more information.

www.groomandkennelexpo.com

ATLANTA PET FAIR

The Official Groomer's Spring Break



Best in Show winner Amy Triezenberg with judge Jodi Murphy, Felix Gresham of sponsor *Andis*, and show manager Ann Stafford.

or 25 years, with over 2,200 attendees, 100+ exhibitors, and 90+ lectures, the *Atlanta Pet Fair* is the place to be. One of the first grooming shows of the year, the *Atlanta Pet Fair* is a blend of southern hospitality and grooming innovation. Groomers come from around the world to check out the cutting edge merchandise, learn the latest industry techniques, and compete in the world's largest *GroomTeam* sanctioned competitions.

Looking for state-of-the-art products and ground-breaking technology? *Atlanta Pet Fair* is your one stop shop. From grooming paraphernalia, to mobile vans, our vendors have it all. Whether it's something as simple as bows and shear sharpening or as complex as mobile vans and hydraulic equipment, *Atlanta's* vendors will provide.

KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~ 2,200

EDUCATION: FOUR DAYS

TRADE SHOW: THREE DAYS

BOOTHS: >100

GROOMING CONTESTS: YES

CONTEST JUDGING: USA

GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES

GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

FEB. 28-MARCH 3 2013 ATLANTA GA Top-notch speakers deliver a wealth of information to both novice and expert groomers. Regardless of how long you have been in the industry, there is always something new to learn. Our goal is to ensure everyone leaves more informed than when they arrived.

Are you a real social hound, or do you thrive on competition? Maybe both? Atlanta can meet your needs. Espree's, "Meet and Greet" and the "Kenchii Par-

ty" brings groomers from all over together for fun, dancing, chitchat, and food. Want to meet your facebook friends and bloggers? Odds are they will be there. Additionally, the *Atlanta Pet Fair* has held the world's largest grooming competition for over five years. Ranging from the standard to the creative, these competitions allow groomers to express their artistic nature, as well as rake in a little cash and prizes.

Whether it's knowledge, competition, shopping, or good old fashion fun and convening, you don't want to miss out on this experience. After all, *Atlanta* is considered the "official groomer's spring break!" We hope to see you there.

www.atlantapetfair.com

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TRADE SHOWS

INTERGROOM

www.intergroom.com

The Red Carpet Show



Intergroom International Groomer of the Year winner Veronica Frosch with judges Marea Tully and Lisa Leady and sponsors Christine DeFilippo of Intergroom Inc. and Connie Bailey of PetSmart.

ntergroom is one of the world's largest international dog grooming conferences and exhibitions. Intergroom was founded in 1980 by industry icon Shirlee Kalstone with a goal of creating a forum for groomers to gather, exchange ideas, techniques and styles. It became a success in a proverbial "New York minute." In 2000, after leading Intergroom for two decades, Shirlee Kalstone turned over the reins to noted salon owner, speaker, judge and show producer, Christine DeFilippo. In order to meet growing attendance and tradeshow space demand, Christine moved Intergroom into a convention setting and finally to its current home at the Meadowlands Convention Center in Secaucus, NJ where it has continued to grow and make its mark on the pet styling industry.

Intergroom 2012 saw a record number of groomers who participated in continuing education classes, competed in the contest ring (total of 115 competitors), and viewed the

KEY STATS

EDUCATION: TWO DAYS
TRADE SHOW: TWO DAYS
BOOTHS: >95
GROOMING CONTESTS: YES
CONTEST JUDGING: USA
GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

APRIL 20-22, 2013 SECAUCUS NJ

latest technology, services and products on the trade-show floor. Many 2012 attendees had never been to a grooming show! *Intergroom* 2012 had 95 individual companies exhibiting every type of product a groomer could want or imagine.

With the talented Joey Villani on staff and an expansive venue, *Intergroom* features the best theatrical

staging, lighting and sound to be found anywhere. The huge trade show is highlighted by the competition ring; like a shining jewel in the center of the trade show floor! Each year *Intergroom* continues to attract new groomers and industry faces. You can often find them talking trade while watching stylists from around the world as they vie for the coveted awards in *Intergroom's* world famous Competition Ring.

This contest ring is home to many competitions over the three days of the show. Competitions unique to *Intergroom* are: "International Groomer of the Year," a competition limited to top level groomers, "Rising Star of the Year," a competition just for novice to intermediate groomers, "Feline Fantasy," the only cat creative competition anywhere, and "Extreme Make-Over" for the groomer who is up to the challenge of grooming a dog with four or more months hair growth! We also offer the ever-popular "Creative Challenge" which is always a huge crowd pleaser!

Intergroom 2013, scheduled for April 20-22, 2013. Please visit Intergroom at www.intergroom.com for exhibitor and attendee information.

Check out the pet boarding industry's ONLY trade magazine! www.PetBoardingAndDaycare.com

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SunDancer, Chicken and fish, 30% protein Introduced in 2010. Exceptional diet for allergic dogs. We use crcumin/turmerric, chia, quinoa, tapioca, cranberries for bladder stones.

The Cute Story

Eigteen and a half years ago, Sissy, the owner of Solid Gold, was given a Dane mix to foster. Her mother was a black Dane. Her father was a traveling man. She was about three months old. Sissy already had an adult Dane and was fostering two more adult Danes. So what's another dog!

Sissy took the little dog to the vet to get it fixed. The vet asked her name. She didn't have one, so the vet wrote down BB for Black Bitch. She became BB. She got all her puppy shots there.

A month later, the man returned to pick up the "foster".

"You can't take my dog. She found a forever home," he was told. BB remained with Sissy for 18 1/2 years. In November, she was taken to the vets for her eighteenth birthday for a Wellness check-up. This was only her second trip since she never received any other shots, but the puppy shots. She was fine. The vet couldn't believe this was the same Dane mix he had spade 18 years before.

"What are you feeding?" he asked.

"Solid Gold, of course, Sissy replied

Six months later, BB went to sleep and crossed the Rainbow Bridge. She has been fed Solid Gold SunDancer dry dog food for the last eight years of her life, and Solid Gold Sea Meal all her life.

Danes don't live that long. BB did. You are what you eat, the vet said. How true for Solid Gold.



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ALL AMERICAN GROOMING SHOW

www.aagroom.com

The Longest-Running Grooming Show in the World



Best of the Best winners Lindsey Dicken and Olga Zabelinskaya with Shirlee Kalstone and Jerry Schinberg.

stablished by Jerry Schinberg in 1973, the *All American Grooming Show* is the longest-running grooming trade show and competition. Schinberg started the show because he "saw a need for groomers to get out of their shops and come together to learn and to hone their skills."

Since its beginning days as the Midwest Professional Dog Grooming Contest and Seminar, the All American Grooming Show has grown to be the largest pet care event in the Midwest, drawing nearly 1500 attendees to the Chicago area in recent years. Attendees travel to the show for the exciting grooming competitions and informative seminars with some of the top speakers in the pet care industry.

In June 2012, Schinberg announced he would be retiring as show manager of the *All American Grooming Show* and would be selling the show to *Barkleigh Productions* following the 40th Annual event. "We are confident that under [*Barkleigh* president] Todd Shelly's stewardship," explained Jerry and Sally Schinberg on the official show website, "the *All American* will flourish and remain the *All American* that you have come to know and love, especially since Jerry will still

KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~ 1,500
EDUCATION: FOUR DAYS
TRADE SHOW: THREE DAYS
BOOTHS: >85
GROOMING CONTESTS: YES
CONTEST JUDGING: USA
GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES
GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

AUG. 15-18, 2013 WHEELING IL

be an active participant."

"Tradition is such a big part of the *All American* show, so even though *Barkleigh Productions* is managing the show this year, it will be very much the same," assures Todd Shelly. "Jerry will even be at the show to emcee several events." And expect to see stars and stripes, as *Barkleigh* will continue the *All American* patriotic theme at the 2013 event.

You can also expect to

find the abstract design runway contest and the smock contest on the schedule of events. Groomers will also be able to enter grooming competitions, which will continue to follow *GroomTeam USA* rules.

Jerry Schinberg was a pioneer of competitive creative grooming, which has become a staple of *Barkleigh* grooming shows, and the creative styling contest will continue to be a highlight of the *All American Grooming Show* under *Barkleigh* management. It is important to note that at the 2013 show, creative grooming competitors will be expected to groom their dogs in the contest ring rather than arriving at the show with their completed entry.

Education has been an important part of the *All American Grooming Show* and will continue to be one of the main features of the event. *Barkleigh* plans to offer additional seminar options in 2013, and attendees can expect the cost of educational packages to remain the same as in previous years.

"Our goal for this first year," says Shelly, "is to combine the *All American* tradition with the little things that have made *Barkleigh* events special and have helped shows like *Groom Expo* and *Groom & Kennel Expo* grow for over 20 years."

For more information, go to www.aagroom.com.



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TRADE SHOWS

PETQUEST

The Family Friendly Show

arkleigh Productions created PetQuest over nine years ago and in 2011 moved the summertime show to the Roberts Centre of Wilmington, OH. PetQuest 2012 welcomed nearly 1000 groomers and pet care professionals through its doors, continuing the growing trend of the

previous decade.



ATTENDANCE: ~ 1,000
EDUCATION: FOUR DAYS
TRADE SHOW: THREE DAYS
BOOTHS: >40
GROOMING CONTESTS: YES
CONTEST JUDGING: IJA
GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES
GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

JUNE 20-23, 2013 WILMINGTON OH Many groomers in the Midwest region look forward to *PetQuest* and the educational opportunities available at the show. Industry experts lead classes on topics like grooming, animal behavior, and business. Attendees especially enjoy the grooming seminars that include demonstrations by some of the industry's champion groomers.



Level Three Best In Show winner, Tara Denean with Diane Betelak of Andis.

Participation in the grooming tournaments at *PetQuest* has grown over the years as more groomers travel to Wilmington to compete for trophies and cash prizes. Starting in 2013, groomers at *PetQuest* will also compete for GroomTeam points. Contestants can enter in one of three skill levels to compete in four different classes: Poodle, All Other Purebreds, Salon Freestyle, and Sporting/Terriers and More.

The grooming tournaments at *PetQuest* also include a creative styling contest on Sunday. Though it is not uncommon to see some of the creative grooming legends on the contest stage, *PetQuest* is an excellent opportunity for more novice creative groomers to try competing without the pressure of *Groom Expo*-sized audiences.

When attendees are not busy with seminars or compe-

titions, they make their way through the aisles of vendors in the trade show hall, searching for the perfect products and best prices. During the three-day trade show, attendees stock up on their favorite shampoos, blades, and other necessities and learn about new products on the market.

PetQuest is also a fun event for the whole family. With kids out of school for the summer, GroomerTV has a few events planned for all the future groomers at the show, like creative kids contests to prove that creative grooming is not just for dogs.

PetQuest 2013 runs from June 20 to 23 in Wilmington, OH. For more information, go to *www.pqgroom.com*.

www.pqgroom.com

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ATLANTA PET FAIR
Thursday
Feb. 28, 2013
1:00 - 5:00 pm

NORTHWEST GROOMING SHOW

Expanding to Four Days of Education, Three Days of Trade Show

KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~ 1,000
EDUCATION: FOUR DAYS
TRADE SHOW: THREE DAYS
BOOTHS: >40
GROOMING CONTESTS: YES
CONTEST JUDGING: IJA
GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES
GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

MARCH 14-17, 2013 TACOMA WA ringing grooming education and competition to the Seattle area for over seven years, the Northwest Grooming Show is an event that has grown almost exponentially. Groomers travel from throughout the Pacific Northwest region and from Canada to attend Barkleigh's Northwest Grooming Show, which had nearly 1000 attendees in 2012 and will expand to a three-day trade show in 2013.

A major component of the *Northwest Grooming Show* is the education. With *Barkleigh* expanding the trade show to three days in 2013, there will also be an additional day of educational seminars. Attendees will be able to enjoy four days

www.nwgroom.com



Open Class winner, Barbara Prueckel with Roxanne Zenner of Andis.

of classes taught by industry experts on topics like grooming, business, and animal behavior. The educational component of the show also features grooming demonstration seminars with industry icons and champions.

Competitions at the *Northwest Grooming Show* have also grown over the years. More groomers are entering the *World Cup Grooming Games* than before, competing for titles in three skill levels and five different classes: Poodles, Terriers, Sporting, All Other Purebreds, and Salon Freestyle. As of 2013, these competitions will be *Groom-*

Team sanctioned. Grooming competitions also include Sunday's creative styling contest, with groomers using their skills in styling and coloring to compete for trophies, prizes, and the coveted People's Choice Award.

Groomers who come to shop at the Northwest Grooming Show will have an extra day to spend on the trade show floor. In 2013, the trade show will expand to three days, running from Friday through Sunday. Attendees will also find a larger trade show hall with more booths than ever before. With more booths and more time to shop, attendees are sure to find some excellent deals on lots of products.

Northwest Grooming Show 2013 runs from March 14 to 17 in Tacoma, WA.



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FACE

PRESENTATION:

Areas around eyes, muzzle and chin are red and inflamed. Weepy eyes. Hair loss.

ACTION:

Scratching at face with paws or rubbing against objects.

<u>SKIN</u>

PRESENTATION:

Bumps or white pustules, redness and inflammation.

ACTION:

Licking or chewing affected areas. Rolling on the floor. Scratching.

PAWS

PRESENTATION:

Irritated & red between toes. Discolored from licking. Odor.

ACTION:

Chewing or constant licking of feet.



EARS

PRESENTATION:

Unusual odor, waxy residue, redness, thinning of hair.

ACTION:

Shaking of head. Scratching of ears with paws or rubbing head against objects.

COAT

PRESENTATION:

Irritation, redness & inflammation. Bald or discolored patches. Bumps or white pustules.

ACTION:

Scratching at face with paws or rubbing against objects.

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Infected Ears

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Dirty, smelly Ears

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TRADE SHOWS

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2012 Superzoo Jackpot winner Irina Pinkusevich.

resh ideas, hot trends, new connections, and great opportunities — that's what you get at the retail pet industry's fastest growing, most popular trade event. It's the ideal place to get down to business, and with our new July dates this year, it's now also the ideal time to do it. It's time for *SOMETHING DIFFERENT*. The National Show for Pet Retailers™ now gives you all the latest trends, innovative ideas, and delightfully different products your pet-loving customers want — just in time for fall and holiday buying.

Come help yourself to all the variety, inspiration, and uniqueness this vibrant, growing show has for you. Attend SuperZoo University, the biggest and best education program in the industry, and equip your business to compete in today's retail environment. Networking, networking,

superzoo.org

KEY STATS

EDUCATION: THREE DAYS
TRADE SHOW: THREE DAYS
GROOMING CONTESTS: YES
CONTEST JUDGING: USA
GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES
GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

JULY 23-25, 2013 LAS VEGAS NV networking! SuperZoo brings the entire retail pet community together, so you can easily make the connections that will help you grow your business.

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top suppliers and unique vendors, and work all your options with the greatest of ease. Also receive exclusive pricing on products at the show. Stretch your open-to-buy budget and increase the value of your trip with show specials offered by many exhibitors.

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TRADE SHOWS

NDGAA

www.ndgaa.com

Florida's Fun in the Sun, Denver's GroomFest Two Great Events



2012 Fun in the Sun Best in Show winner Veronica Frosch.

he National Dog Groomers Association of America annually sponsors two rather famous dog grooming seminars, trade show, and grooming competition events with its certification program included. Their next two shows will be GroomFest (June 7-9, 2013) at the Denver DIA Crowne Plaza and the now very famous Fun in the Sun (October 25-27, 2013) at the World Gate Resort in Kissimmee, Florida.

NDGAA's shows have gained notoriety as the fun and friendly educational shows one just does not want to miss! Both boast of attendees from all over North America flocking to the destination shows; many of them compete in the six grooming tournaments. Denver's GroomFest is the show with "High Altitude Grooming at Its Finest," and the Florida show is notorious for too much "Fun in the Sun!"

FUN IN THE SUN KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~900

EDUCATION: THREE DAYS

TRADE SHOW: TWO DAYS

BOOTHS: ~70

GROOMING CONTESTS: YES

GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES

GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

OCT 25-27, 2013 KISSIMMEE FL

GROOMFEST KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~ 400

EDUCATION: THREE DAYS

TRADE SHOW: TWO DAYS

BOOTHS: ~50

GROOMING CONTESTS: YES

GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES

GROOMERTV COVERAGE: NO

JUNE 7-9, 2013 DENVER CO

The pre-registration deadlines are approximately two weeks prior to the shows, and online registration is available at www.ndgaa.com. Competition deadlines are 10 days prior to the shows.

The Fun in the Sun show will be NDGAA's 28th year in Florida. Approximately 70 exhibitors always fill the Grand Ballroom; the 2012 show boasted nearly 900 in attendance! The Colorado show is NDGAA's "growing" show for now, as this will be its fourth year in Denver with approximately 50 vendors and 400 attendees. In the past, NDGAA has had attendees from Guam, Malaysia, Canada, Japan, and all over the continental United States and Hawaii!

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Heads Up Creative winner Liz Witunsky (second from left) with NEPGP Show Coordinator Linda Claflin (in the peacock) and sponsors Dan Williams (far left) and Larry Gudith (far right) of EZ Groom.

he New England Pet Grooming Professionals (NEPGP) organization is not tiny or huge. We welcome all those who come to it with the simple acknowledgement that our events will encourage curiosity and learning in a supportive atmosphere while offering the highest quality available in the industry. Eric Salas called it a "show with heart." Mary Meeks complimented the "energy" of our show.

KEY STATS

ATTENDANCE: ~ 500

EDUCATION: THREE DAYS

TRADE SHOW: TWO DAYS

BOOTHS: 35-50

GROOMING CONTESTS: YES

GROOMTEAM POINTS: YES

GROOMERTV COVERAGE: YES

OCT 11-13, 2013 LOCATION TBA

We have a three-leveled competition, three day show at our FallFest with the top level earning points to GroomTeam USA and the Entry level awarding the achievement and motivation of those taking their "first step into the ring." There are "Special Memorial Awards" recognizing a wide array of achievements for all our participants. With educational seminars and Add On programs, the New England Show is complete with a trade show. We also host a one-day educational event in the Spring and Summer. We always invite comments and try to respond with changes developed from the experience of our members and attendees. This gives the shows and semi-

nars a development geared to those who want to learn.

Serving New England and beyond for over 30 years, we are the only non-profit major pet organization in the country. We are dedicated both to the top level of skill and the spirit of learning that has allowed our group's character to deepen. Please come join us!

MORE TRADE SHOWS

The following Industry Shows did not respond to requests for additional information.

GROOM CLASSIC

May 3-5, 2013 Kansas City MO www.groomclassic.com

U.S. PET PRO CLASSIC

November 1-3, 2013 Dallas TX www.petstylist.com

H.H. BACKER

Sept. 20-22, 2013 Chicago IL www.hhbacker.com

PET STYLIST SUPER SHOW

June 1-3, 2013 Knoxville TN www.petstylistsoftennessee.com

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*According to a recent survey at www.petgroomer.com/surveys.htm the national average for a mobile stylist is \$61.00 per pet compared to a stationary salon average at \$40.00 per pet.

GROOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

2013 IPG Events and Workshops

Written and/or Practical Exams at All Events

January 20-21, 2013

Greensboro, NC Nanhall Pet Spa

International Professional Groomers and National Association of Professional Creative Groomers. One day of Breed Profile to prepare for APF or IPG Written and Practical Exams. One day of Creative Grooming!

January 20-21, 2013

Mesa, AZ

Paws N Claws

801 S Power Rd. #106

Mesa, AZ 85206

Salon Details Workshop and Certification Contact: IPG or Paula Giraldo

480-325-1911, paugiraf@hotmail.com

February 21-24, 2013

Groom & Kennel Expo

Pasadena, CA

www.barkleigh.com www.groomandkennelexpo.com

February 28-March 3, 2013

Atlanta Pet Fair

Atlanta, GA

Seminars, Competition & Trade Show www.atlantapetfair.com

March 13-17, 2013

Northwest Grooming Show

Tacoma, WA

www.barkleigh.com www.nwgroom.com

April 20-22, 2013

Intergroom

Secaucus, NJ

Seminars, Competition

& Trade Show

www.intergroom.com

May 3-5, 2013

Groom Classic

Kansas City, MO

IPG Testing and Workshop www.groomclassic.com

May 16-19, 2013

Pineo's Pet Spaw

Centreville, NS Canada

902-697-3647

info@pineospetspaw.com or hayley@ipgicmg.com

June 20-23, 2013

Petquest

Wilmington, OH

717-691-3388

info@barkleigh.com

www.pggroom.com

July 23-25, 2013

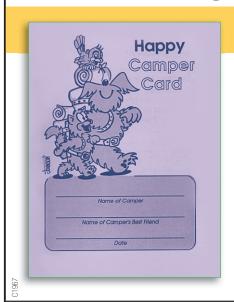
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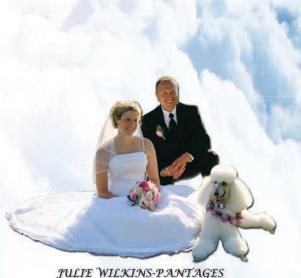




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GROOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

August 14-19, 2013

All American Grooming Show Wheeling, IL

717-691-3388 info@barkleigh.com www.aagroom.com

September 19-22, 2013

Groom Expo Hershey, PA

717-691-3388 info@barkleigh.com www.groomexpo.com

October 2013

Michigan School of Canine Cosmetology 5915 S. Cedar Street

Lansing, MI 48911

IPG Breed Profile Workshop and Certification 517-393-6311 Fax: 517-393-5611 Contact: Hayley Keyes at hayley@ipgicmg.com

2013 NDGAA Events and Workshops

February 2, 2013

Mt. Olive, NJ

Mini-Workshop - 7pm to 10pm Pre-register by Jan. 19th (Higher door fee if space is available). Held in conjuction with Jodi Murphy Seminar Holiday Inn @ Budd Lake,1000 International Dr N., Mt. Olive, NJ 07828

February 24-25, 2013

Loveland, CO

Workshop & Private Testing
Pre-register by Feb. 8th
(Higher door fee if space is available).
Held at Dogs Own Grooming School,
224 E 29th St., Loveland, CO 80538

February 28 - March 3, 2013

Atlanta Pet Fair Atlanta, GA

Contest Dog Certification Testing Only.

Pre-register by Feb. 15th (Higher door fee if space is available).

Held in conjunction with Atlanta Pet
Fair. Hilton Atlanta Airport, Atlanta, GA
www.atlantapetfair.com



March 24-25, 2013

Austin, TX

Workshop & Private Testing Pre-register by March 8th (Higher door fee if space is available) Held at Amazing Pet Grooming 2410 Greenlawn Parkway, Austin, TX 78757

April 7-8, 2013

Barrington, IL

Workshop & Private Testing Pre-register by March 22nd (Higher door fee if space is available) Held at Midwest School of Pet Grooming, 557 N Hough St., Barrington, IL 60010

April 20-22, 2013

Intergroom

Secacus, NJ

Contest Dog Certification Testing Only Pre-register by April 5th (Higher door fee if space is available) Held in conjunction with Intergroom Meadowlands Expo Center, Secaucus, NJ www.intergroom.com

May 5-6, 2013

Midlothian, VA

Workshop & Private Testing Pre-register by April 19th (Higher door fee if space is available) Held at Groomers Mall.

1701 Oak Lake Blvd. E, Midlothian, VA 23112

June 7-9, 2013

GroomFest

Denver, CO

Mini-Workshop & Contest & Private Testing. Pre-register by TBD (Higher door fee if space is available) Held in conjunction with NDGAA GroomFest, Denver Crowne Plaza, 15500 E 40th Ave., Denver, CO 80239

> For ISCC events & workshops, go to petstylist.com

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UP AND COMING GROOMERS SETTING CONTEST RINGS ON FIRE

֍ by Kathy Hosler ₻

rooming is not just a job or my career," states a glowing Sarah Moon, one of the newest members of *Groom-Team USA*. "It's what I live and breathe. It's my passion. And doing well when I compete doesn't make me feel content or satisfied — it makes me want to learn and do more and to get better."

Sarah is not alone in her passion for grooming or competing. This past September, Sarah and fellow groomers Kristen Clyburn, Mackensie Murphy, and Nick Waters were nominated for the Barkleigh Honors Award for Up and Coming Competitive Groomer of the Year. These young grooming sensations have traveled different paths to enter the world of grooming and the competition ring, but they all share the same passion for what they do.

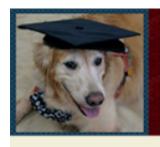
"I've been grooming for about six

years," says an upbeat Kristen Clyburn. "I began as a bather at *PetSmart* when I was in college, then I got into their grooming training program. During that time, I got my first copy of *Groomer to Groomer* magazine. Karen Tucker was on the cover with a gorgeous black Miniature Poodle in a German trim. I knew right then that I wanted to do that, too.

"My first competition was in the Oster Career Start at the Carolina Groom Fest," Kristen recalls. "I was incredibly nervous but excited as well. I didn't place in that class, but I got the bug, and in 2011 I began to compete in earnest. I really love the camaraderie among the competitors, having fun, and getting feedback. For me, the worst part is the nerves... watching the judges go over your dog and then waiting for their decision."

"I grew up watching my mom,
Jodi Murphy, groom, compete, and be
on *GroomTeam USA*," says Mackensie
Murphy. "I've been bathing dogs for
my mom since I was about eight years
old. While working the trade shows
at my mom's booth selling DVDs and
clothes, I would watch the grooming
competitions and say, 'I could do this.'
I could do this.' But I felt like I had
the biggest shoes to fill. I was worried
about competing and not doing well,
but I just jumped in, and now I can't
get enough of it."

As much as she loves competing, Mackensie shares the unnerving event that almost prevented her from entering her first contest. "My first competition was at Atlanta two years ago," recalls Mackensie. "I made arrangements to borrow a Poodle from Lindsey Dicken and was going to put it



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in a German trim. I practiced that trim on so many dogs for weeks before the competition.

"The night before the competition, Diane Betelak came to our hotel room and said, 'Mackensie's Poodle just got its ear bitten off by a Kerry Blue Terrier in the elevator!' It was awful!" says Mackensie. "We took the Poodle for emergency treatment, but of course I wasn't able to compete with it. Luckily, I was able find another Poodle to compete with, and I ended up winning Best In Show First Time Competitor."

Another young groomer that is making his mark in the competition circle is Nick Waters. Nick comes from a family of dog lovers who have been very involved in training and showing dogs. Nick and his sister, Ashley, decided to attend the Academy of Dog Grooming Arts in Arlington Heights, Illinois, to learn pet grooming. While they were there, an instructor at the school encouraged them to try competing.

"My first competition was at the All American Show in Chicago, and it was a lot of fun," says an enthusiastic Nick. "I did a Bichon and wound up

getting Best First-Timer. When I compete, I'm always learning something new. I like seeing all the groomers and the inspiring trims they put on the dogs."

Nick and his sister both compete now. He says that they have a backand-forth battle between them to see who can do the best in the competitions. They both have plenty of family support when they are in the ring. Their mom, dad, and five siblings all sport green t-shirts that proudly say Team Waters on them.

Although these young superstars have only been competing a short while, they are making their presence felt throughout the industry. In fact, all four of them have qualified to become members of GroomTeam USA. The passion that drives them is evident by their impressive wins and their constant desire to improve their skills.

How have Sarah, Kristen, Nick, and Mackensie risen to this level so quickly? "I have always soaked up knowledge from anywhere that I can," says Sarah Moon. "I'm big on education. I go to every dog show and seminar possible. Books like Notes from the Grooming Table by Melissa Verplank are invaluable to me. And in the summer of 2011, I got my certification through the NDGAA.

"I'm one of those people who, when I decide to do something, jump into it with both feet and go for it all the way," says Sarah. "I like the challenge of competing. I seldom use the same dog twice. It's really rewarding to see what you can do on a dog that you have never groomed before."

Kristen Clyburn says, "Making GroomTeam and being nominated for a Barkleigh Honors Award are incredible honors. I feel like a little fish in a big pond, but grooming is my passion, and when I compete, I challenge myself. I need to prove to myself that I can do it.

"I always learn something new," says Kristen. I've received a lot of help and advice from so many people. I have taken many hands-on workshops, gotten tips from breeders, asked questions at trade shows, and I always get detailed critiques from judges."

Nick Waters says, "Grooming school, dog shows, handlers, breeders, and other groomers have all helped me out in so many ways. I'm always learning something new.

"I love competing," Nick continues. "I like the adrenaline, the sounds of the contest ring, and challenging myself to do better!"

Mackensie Murphy, this year's winner of the Barkleigh Honors Up and Coming Competitive Groomer Award, says, "Competing is a break from everyday grooming. It's seeing how far you can go and how well you can do. We learn so much from each other — especially the group of us that are coming up together. I want to be part of this great industry for as long as I can!"

Watch for these exciting competitors in the ring. They're on fire — and their passion is contagious!



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Sam Hoi — Up and Coming Competitor of the Year



Olga Zabelinskaya — Up and Coming Speaker of the Year



Michell Evans — Competitor of the Year



Lori Craig — All Time Favorite Creative Cover



Angela Kumpe — Creative Competitor of the Year



Lisa Leady — Judge of the Year



 $\textbf{Frank Brown} \longrightarrow \textbf{Gwen Shelly Cordiality Award}$



Dawn Omboy — Contribution to Creative Grooming



Chuck Simons — Contribution to the Industry







FROM LEFT:

Chris Pawlosky — Speaker of the Year

Eric Vahey — New Product of the Year (Breathe Healthy Mask)

Andis/Bob Ehrler — Sponsor of the Year

Not Pictured: Barbara Bird Blog of the Year

petgroomer.comWebsite of the Year

2012



Teri DiMarino — Journalist of the Year and Contribution to the Industry



Lindsey Dicken — Competitor of the Year



Jonathan David — Up and Coming Speaker of the Year



Angela Kumpe — Creative Competitor of the Year



M.J. Vaskorlis and Michelle Semken of Pet Bath & Beyond — Humanitarian Award



Dan and Debbie Rowe of Frank Rowe & Son
— Vendor of the Year



Lisa Leady — Judge of the Year



Melissa Verplank — Speaker of the Year



Jerry Schinberg — Sally Liddick Lifetime Achievement Award



Sue Zecco — Congeniality Award



Sue Zecco & Jay Scruggs — Video of the Year



Mackensie Murphy — Up and Coming Competitor of the Year



Cindy Agoncillo of Barkleigh Productions — Recently Published Grooming Related Book

Not Pictured:
Barbara Bird
Blog of the Year

Pawdicure Polish Pens by Warren London New Product of the Year

Yankee Clipper Pet Grooming
Website of the Year

Judy Breton
Contribution to the Industry

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CLIPPER MAINTENANCE

CLIPPER MAINTENANCE TROUBLE SHOOTING

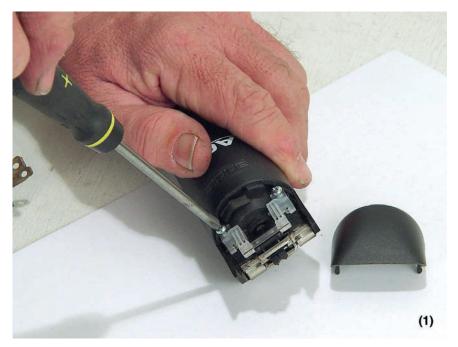
™ by Gary Hartwell **№**

PROBLEM: My new blade isn't cutting. **BLADE DRIVE:** Check the blade drive, also known as the lever or swing arm. This is the most commonly worn part. When the blade drive is worn, the clipper will no longer cut properly. This part must be checked regularly and changed after it shows wear from use. (Picture #1, #2)

PROBLEM: My clipper and blade are heating up too quickly.

BLADE TENSION: If the blade tension is too tight, the clipper will run hot. Tension should be firm, but the cutter portion of the blade should be able to slide back and forth with little effort. To loosen the blade tension, simply pry up each side of the tension spring. (Picture #5)

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CLIPPER MAINTENANCE

seems correct, check the carbon brushes. Worn carbon brushes will cause heat to build up inside the clipper. Brushes should be at least 1/16" in length. (Picture #4)

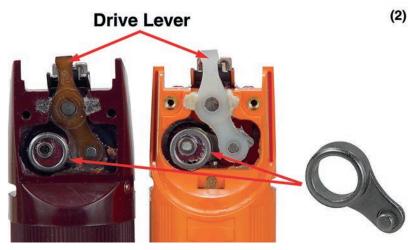
HAIR BUILD UP: On air cooled clippers, the switch cap can build up with hair, restrict airflow, and cause a clipper to overheat. Frequently check the clipper switch cap and remove hair buildup. (Picture #3)

PROBLEM: My blades wobble.

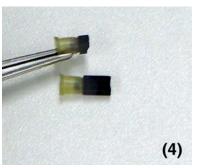
HINGE SCREWS: Check to make sure that the hinge screws have not come loose. If they have, tighten them down as needed.

BLADE BRACKET (SOCKET): If the problem persists, you may have a bent blade bracket. Using a pair of large pliers, simply bend the socket ears slightly inward, and then reset the blade on the clipper. (Picture #6) It may be necessary to change out the socket if the blades continue to wobble.

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8:1	14 oz	1 ¾ cups	
10:1	12 oz	1 ½ cups	
12:1	10 oz	1 ¼ cups	
15:1	8 oz	1 cup	
16:1	8 oz	1 cup	
17:1	7 oz	1 cup	
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24:1	5 oz	³⁄₄ cup	
25:1	5 oz	³⁄4 cup	
26:1	5 oz	½ cup	
30:1	4 oz	½ cup	
32:1	4 oz	½ cup	
35:1	4 oz	½ cup	
50:1	3 oz	½ cup	
64:1	2 oz	1/4 cup	



Aloe

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- Telfa® pads (non stick bandage pads)
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- VetWrap® type bandage material
- · Bandage scissors
- · Heavy towel and clean cloth
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- Nylon leash
- Thermometer (electronic)

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- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
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- Wire Cutters
- · Penlight or small flashlight



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A Look Back at 2012

by Cheryl A. Purcell

2011-2012 GroomTeam Coordinator

his past October was the end of my term as the 2011-2012 *GroomTeam* Coordinator, and what an exciting two years it has been.

The first year of the two-year cycle is known as an off year. That doesn't mean that it wasn't feeling well. It means that you usually see fewer competitors at shows. Maybe a competitor won't make the big push and go to all the shows, or they won't enter all the classes. The second year is a big deal! Competitors are making the push to make the travel team and the alternate slot. This is known as an on year, and competitors bring it.

As you may know, the competitors that go to these shows are competitive by nature. They torture themselves by getting up at 4 a.m. to bathe and prep dogs and by staying up late, driving for hours on end, just to get to a grooming show.

I remember what it was like when I was out competing. Our motto was "go big or go home." We often traveled with

a group from my area to save on travel expenses. Though we were all friends, we were rivals as well. I recall many occasions when friends and colleagues would be battling it out for a placement — either a spot as the number one groomer or the tenth slot on the team. Often it was, for lack of a better term, a slug fest for the travel team. I, myself, was in heated competition several times for the alternate slot.

2012 did not disappoint for any spectator tracking this year's shows. After the end of 2011, it was pretty clear who the people were to beat.

In 2011 we had no new *Groom-Team* members. We did have some returning members in 2011, but all had been on the team at some point in the past. The up and coming groomers in 2012 were looking to make sure that didn't happen again. There were several groomers in Intermediate that were worth keeping an eye on. Among them were Nick Waters, Sarah Moon, Mackenzie Murphy, Hannah Allen,

Yvonne Aitken, Erin McLaughlin, Kristen Clyburn, and Tammy Colbert, and they battled right to the end.

The last two shows of the year were on the same weekend. It was quite nerve wracking for me. I can only imagine how the competitors felt. Several of the groomers went to NDGAA Fun in the Sun in Orlando, and several chose to go to Pet Pro Classic in Dallas. This show was a three-tiered show, and even though it traditionally draws fewer competitors in Open, you can garnish more points due to the group placements.

I was in Florida running the *GroomTeam USA* booth, and everyone there was wondering what was going on in Dallas. I texted Scott Wasserman, the BIS judge there, and he texted me the class results. Even though the results were unofficial, I kept the competitors in Florida up to date. By the end of the Orlando show, we had two groomers tied for tenth place. While one groomer in Dallas was close



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	Atlanta Pet Fair	Intergroom	Colorado	NEPGP	All American Grooming Show	SuperZoo	Backer	Dallas	NDGAA	TOTAL POINTS
Lindsey Dicken	38	26	0	10	28	4	14	0	28	148
Irina Pinkusevich	8	6	9	25	0	18	41	0	8	115
Veronica Frosch	8	20	3	8	4	36	4	0	18	101
Olga Zabelinskaya	4	6	6	0	40	0	0	22	0	78
Amy Triezenberg	22	4	3	0	13	0	6	0	0	48
Tammy Siert	6	8	4	7	4	3	4	0	7	43
Nicholas Waters	8	0	0	0	10	0	6	0	0	24
Jennifer Lee	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	8	0	30
Michelle Breen	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	16
Kristen Clyburn	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
MacKenzie Murphy	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	5	12
Sarah Moon	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	12

on their heels, *Pet Pro Classic* still had several classes going on Monday.

Several other Northerners and I were stuck in Florida due to Hurricane Sandy. We waited around until we got the text about what was going on in Dallas. As it turned out, it looked like the groomer from Dallas had earned enough points to knock out the two groomers from Orlando. I informed both that they had been bumped off *GroomTeam* by one point. I knew how much it meant to them and wished

them good luck for next year.

About a week later, I received the official result forms from Pam Lauritzen, and the number of competitors was different than what was texted to me. I can only use the official forms — not something else. When I was adding up points, it became apparent that *GroomTeam* was going to have a threeway tie for tenth place. On occasion, we have had a two-way tie but never a three-way tie. I was so excited about this that I contacted the two groomers

from Orlando and let them know that they made the team. They were both over the moon.

I would like to take this time now to announce *GroomTeam USA's* first 12 members: Lindsey Dicken, Irina Pinkusevich, Veronica Frosch, Olga Zabelinskaya, Amy Triezenberg, Tammy Siert, Jennifer Lee, Nicholas Waters, Michelle Breen, Sarah Moon, Mackenzie Murphy, and Kristen Clyburn. This gives *GroomTeam USA* four new members for the 2012 season.



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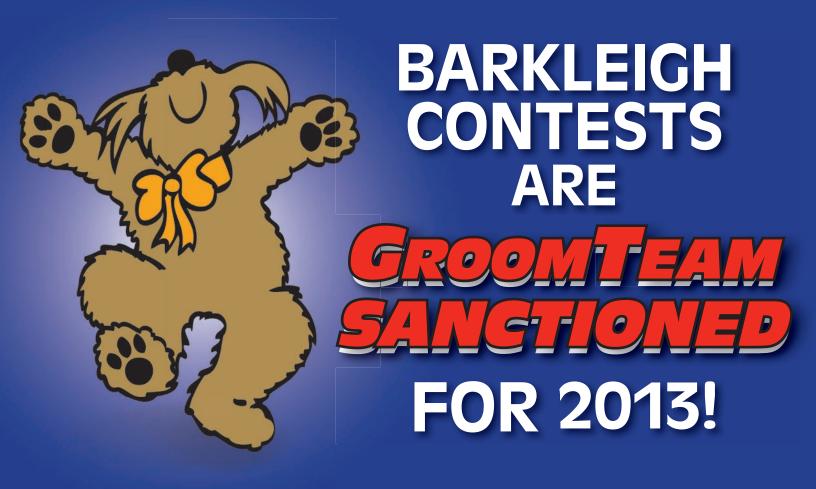
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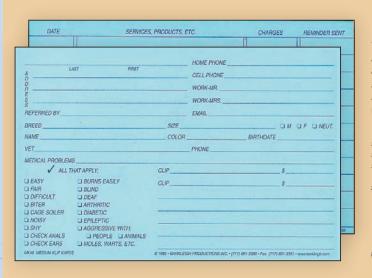


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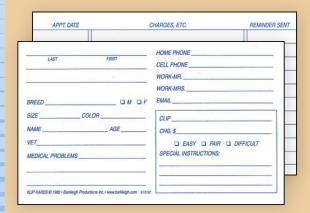
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RUN# MALE OFEMALE ONEUTERED DATE IN EST. TIME OUT DATE OUT DIET DORY DICANNED DISEMPROIST DISPECIAL I certify that I am the owner of this pet. I hereby grant permission to this boarding establishment to act in my behalf, and in my pet's best interest, by obtaining veterinary care at my expense, if deemed necessary, to illness or injury. I further agree to pay for all veterinary and other necessary services incurred by and for my pet during it's stay in this facility. This boarding facility agrees to exercise all due and reasonable care to prevent injury or iliness to my pet. However, in the event of iliness or injury, the owners and employees of this boarding facility shall not be held personally liable for such injury or illness. agree to pay all costs for any properly damage or personal injury caused by my pet during its stay. I agree to pay all charges on the day of pick-up of my pet and I understand that my pet may not leave the permises until all charges are paid in full. I understand that any pet may not leave the permises until all charges are paid in full. I understand that of at the discretion of the kennel owner.

3" x 5" Run-Kard is completed at each visit and attached to the run. Contains all the up-to-date information you need about the pet. The back contains a boarding release for your protection, which is signed and dated by the owner. You'll wonder how you ever lived without them!

#128 RUN KARD (WHITE ONLY)

00 cards	\$9
500 cards	\$36
000 cards	\$55

#123 KENN-L-KARD (WHITE ONLY) #124 KENN-L-KARD EXTENDERS (WHITE ONLY)

100 cards	\$14
500 cards	\$58
1000 cards	\$84



Just attach to the back of a full Kenn-L-Kard.

Kenn-L-Kard Special

Get started with everything! 250 Kenn-L-Kard's 5 x 8 File Box Alphabetical Index Guides



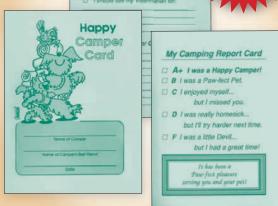
Now you can grade each pet in your care from an A+ to an F. Time-saving checklist will let your client know that his pet ate well, had fleas or should see a vet... and much more. Lots of room for your own personal comments, too. It's a personal way to thank your boarding clients. Plus it's a great promotional tool! Pet owners will tell their friends.

Happy Camper Card

Great for Boarding and Day Care Operators!

#159 Green

\$16
\$66
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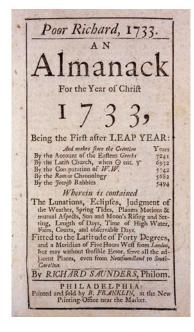
66 H e that lieth down with dogs, shall rise up with Fleas."

Based on that quote, it's safe to say a lot has changed since Benjamin Franklin printed it in his famous Poor Richard's Almanack (for starters, the way we spell almanac). They obviously didn't have flea shampoos or professional dog groomers, for that matter.

Over 250 years later, lying with dogs is not only safe, but a recent poll indicates most dog owners prefer to allow their pets to "lieth" down in the same bed. Obviously, the quote is not meant to be taken literally. It is

a statement on the company you keep. It does show, however, the attitude of the time about a dog's lack of cleanliness.

Speaking of times changing, the first Groomer to Groomer issue of the year has also changed. What used to be the annual Buyer's Guide is now a Groomer's Almanac. I think Franklin would approve. After all, he did say, "When you're finished changing, you're finished."



I know the first Groomer to Groomer Almanac will not have the cultural or historical significance as Poor Richard's, but it is interesting to note that four times as many copies will be printed. Franklin predicted the weather for farmers to plan their work accordingly. We won't be predicting the dogs that you will have scheduled each day. What you will find in this issue is a combination of articles and useful resources. It reflects on the year that was and looks to the future.

Lastly, Benjamin Franklin said, "Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do." In most situations, that may be true. However, in an effort to develop the best Almanac possible, I welcome your criticisms and complaints (but please go easy on the condemnations).

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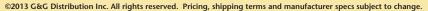
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