Pet Industry Federation

EDUCATION

Your Career in Dog Grooming
DOG GROOMING
AS A CAREER

Dog grooming is a growing industry, with more and more dog owners taking advantage of the services provided by grooming salons. There are around 7,000 grooming salons in the UK, the majority of which are individual premises, although increasing numbers are part of other pet-related establishments such as pet shops, garden centres and boarding establishments. There are also mobile dog groomers who travel to clients’ homes to groom dogs.
Working as a dog groomer

Each breed of dog has different requirements, and there are many types of coat which all require specialist skills and techniques in their preparation. Grooming work involves bathing, shampooing, drying and clipping, trimming and brushing a variety of long and short-haired dogs. Dog groomers should be manually dexterous with good hand-to-eye co-ordination and an eye for detail. An artistic flair is an advantage. Along with these standard services offered as part of the groom, there are also special procedures which include nail clipping and ear care.

A love of animals is essential for a dog groomer, along with patience and a firm but gentle way of handling the dogs. Good customer care is a large part of the job, and pleasant, courteous manners combined with a neat and tidy appearance are very important.

Job opportunities vary from area to area, and the hours of work and pay are negotiable, but normally include weekend work (usually Saturday).

Training and qualifications

There are three main routes to qualify as a dog groomer: either through a fee-paying course at a training centre, such as the Pet Industry Federation’s accredited training centres, or a further education college; or by learning the skills on-the-job alongside an experienced qualified groomer. You should ensure that your training will be delivered by tutors who are qualified and hold the City & Guilds Dog Grooming Certificate 7750 or the City & Guilds 7763-03 Professional Diploma for Dog Stylists. Ideally, they should also have achieved two units or more of the British Dog Groomers’ Association Higher Diploma in Dog Grooming.
City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants

(7763-02)

This qualification is aimed at people new to the industry and can be achieved as a standalone qualification for students or for staff wishing to gain an accredited certificate, or as a progression route for students thinking of achieving the City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate and Diploma. The qualification consists of practical skills and theoretical knowledge. Students have up to two years to complete the qualification from registration.

City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Introductory Dog Grooming

(7763-03)

This qualification is aimed at people who have been dog grooming for some time. To achieve it you’ll need to pass a two-part written examination and a practical element which tests your clipping skills. Gaining the introductory certificate will provide you with the first part of the Level 3 qualification and, as such, is not the full qualification.

The full City & Guilds Level 3 dog grooming qualification is made up of a separate Certificate and a Diploma. Candidates can choose to just take the Introductory Certificate, or to carry on and work towards the full Diploma:

Further details about the Level 3 City & Guilds dog grooming qualification are on pages 6 and 7.
Beyond the Level 3 Diploma, there are a number of further qualifications available to dog groomers:

**British Dog Groomers’ Association Higher Diploma in Dog Grooming**

This is an advanced test to show the expertise and skill required from the experienced groomer working in a commercial environment. A good working knowledge of the Kennel Club breed standards, styles and trimming techniques are required to pass all components. This examination consists of two written papers and seven practical modules.

**City & Guilds Licentiateship**

Students can apply to City & Guilds for the Licentiateship award once two units of the BDGA Higher Diploma have been achieved. Holders of the Licentiateship are invited to a cap and gown graduation ceremony in London and can use the letters LCGI after their name.

**British Dog Groomers’ Association Guild of Master Groomers**

Students who complete all the units of the Higher Diploma can apply to the BDGA for membership of the Guild of Master Groomers.

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**City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma for Professional Dog Stylists (7763-03)**

This qualification builds on the skills and knowledge gained with the Introductory Certificate. In order to achieve the full Diploma you will need to have completed the Introductory Certificate. The Diploma demonstrates your ability to trim and style a range of dogs using various techniques, including handstripping.

The full Level 3 Diploma is an industry-recognised qualification and proves to future employers that you have been trained correctly to a professional level. At the same time it also gives your customers confidence that you are competent to groom their pets.

Students have up to three years to complete the entire City & Guilds 7763 dog grooming qualification from registration.

Details of the qualification content can be downloaded from City & Guilds website: www.cityandguilds.com
Candidates can apply for their LCGI once they have achieved two units from the eight groups.

Candidates can apply for membership of the Guild of Master Groomers once they have achieved all eight groups.

**CITY & GUILDS 7763-03 IN DOG GROOMING**

This qualification comprises three parts: A, B and C

- Introductory Certificate - A and B only
- Diploma for Professional Dog Stylists - A, B and C

**BRITISH DOG GROOMERS’ ASSOCIATION - HIGHER DIPLOMA IN DOG GROOMING**

This qualification comprises eight groups:

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<th>GROUP 1</th>
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<td>Scissoring into style and shape</td>
<td>Scissoring and clipping into style and shape</td>
<td>Clipping &amp; scissoring a long legged terrier/Schnauzer (Group 1)</td>
<td>Clipping &amp; scissoring a long legged terrier/Schnauzer (Group 2)</td>
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Candidates have three years from the date of registration to complete the whole qualification (A, B & C).

**PART A**

Consists of five units of centre-based assessment (taken as part of your course):

1) Carry out styling and finishing dogs
2) Assess and plan dog grooming work
3) Promote and maintain the health and well-being of dogs
4) Health-check a dog
5) Move dogs between locations

 Candidates can apply for membership of the Guild of Master Groomers once they have achieved all eight groups.
PART B

Two 1hr short answer written examinations taken in either June or November*

This is taken from units 2 & 3 of the handbook and is normally arranged through the Pet Industry Federation at the end of your course. Registration for the exam needs to be completed at least six weeks prior to the examination date.

*Please note that candidates may be required to pay a separate fee to sit these examinations. Please check with your training centre.

PART C

Consists of one centre-derived unit and three externally assessed practical units**:

1) Handstrip a dog e.g. Border Terrier (centre derived)
2) Style and trim a spaniel’s coat
3) Style and trim a short-legged terrier
4) Either:
   a) Style and trim a Poodle’s coat
   b) Style and trim a long legged terrier or Miniature Schnauzer coat

** Please note that candidates are required to pay a separate fee to take the externally assessed practical examinations

GROUP 5
Handstripping a wire coat (Group 1)

GROUP 6
Handstripping a wire coat (Group 2)

GROUP 7
Handstripping a gundog

GROUP 8
Two written papers (taken in either June or November)
  a) Salon Management
  b) Grooming
ACREDITED GROOMING TRAINING CENTRES

The Pet Industry Federation has a number of accredited training centres that have undertaken to conform to the terms of the Federation’s training centres’ charter. The proprietors and/or tutors of the centres have the necessary experience and qualifications to teach the courses offered.

Premier Accredited Training Centres ★★★★★

Our Premier accredited training centres have the Pet Industry Federation seal of approval to deliver training and to assess: the Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants, the Level 3 Introductory Certificate in Dog Grooming; and to deliver training for the Level 3 Diploma for Professional Dog Stylists, the Higher Diploma and breed specific styling. All course leaders hold the BDGA Higher Diploma in Dog Grooming and a teaching certificate.

Standard Plus Accredited Training Centres ★★★

Our Standard Plus accredited training centres have the Pet Industry Federation seal of approval to deliver training and to assess: the Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants, the Level 3 Introductory Certificate in Dog Grooming; and to deliver training for the Level 3 Diploma for Professional Dog Stylists. All course leaders are City & Guilds Advanced or Level 3 Diploma qualified, have at least two units of the BDGA Higher Diploma and hold a teaching certificate.

Standard Accredited Training Centres ★★

Our Standard accredited training centres have the Pet Industry Federation seal of approval to deliver and assess training leading to the Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants ONLY and to deliver training for the Level 3 Diploma for Professional Dog Stylists. All course leaders are City & Guilds Advanced or Level 3 Diploma qualified, and hold a teaching certificate.

Accredited Training Centre Assessors:

• Must successfully complete annual standardisation to the satisfaction of the City & Guilds External Verifier.
• Must be occupationally competent.
• Must hold or be working towards an assessor qualification eg D33 A units or TAQA
• Must have successfully attended a one-day Pet Industry Federation assessor training day

For details of your nearest accredited training centre visit: www.petfederation.co.uk