

## The Groomer and the Groomed

Preparing for the big day can often cause you to feel a lot of stress and excitement ofcourse.

Entering a competition is a big deal. Feeling nervous is completely natural especially when you know you are being watched . Every move you make decides how good a groomer you are and what aspects of grooming you take into consideration while grooming a pet.

Have you noticed sometimes that we tend to forget a lot of things while preparing for the big event. It is easy to have things slip from your mind when you are busy trying to achieve the bigger picture . Most often it's the little things that end up and add up to the importance of the final result.

Here are a few pointers for you to keep you and your pet well prepared for the competition and will help you set your mind at ease .

### **Prep work**

#### **For the Groomer :-**

To start with as a groomer you must read all instructions pertaining to the competition. Rules and regulations change between different competitions so it's important to be well informed of the do's and don't's. It's easy to look over certain points in the hurry of getting to end of that long list of what needs to be done but it's always better to know that you have read and understood the requirements.

Deciding clearly on which category you will take part in depends on you capability, practice and experience you've had as a groomer . It is very essential for you to realize what you can and cannot work on in the time frame provided to you during the competition. Making the right choice can give you the upper hand and making the wrong one can be your greatest down fall, so it's up to you to decide what you can handle.

Forming your idea as a groomer and using your knowledge and understanding of the pet should make it easier for you to get a clear picture of what outcome you would want to achieve . Whether it is grooming to the breed standard or being creative, all you must realise is your ability as a groomer and plan accordingly.

Getting the tools to carry along with you should only consist of what is necessary for the competition. Taking too much can be a burden which inturn makes you stress out. So it is best for you to decide what is

important and what you require pertaining to the pet. Make sure your tools are what you are familiar with and are clean and disinfected. While taking you shears ensure that they are what you use and you are comfortable with them otherwise that could cause a very big problem during your competition.

Taking the right products you need is essential, whether it is grooming products, powders, after conditioners , finishing sprays etc. make sure you have just enough of everything you need. It is very important for you to be able to showcase your work to the utmost perfection.

Wearing comfortable clothing is essential as you need comfort while grooming a pet. Wearing uncomfortable clothing will only lead you to be more distracted and will not let you concentrate on your work. Try not to use too much perfume or deodorant as pets get confused and irritated with pungent smells.

Now that you are ready it time to get the pet ready.

### **Prep work** **For the Pet:-**

Make sure the pet that you choose is familiar with you and has been groomed before by you. Take extra care while deciding what products you use depending on whether you have to do any clipping or scissoring.

A basic hygiene groom is essential to bring the pet to a good condition. So make sure the eyes are clean and have no tear stains. Clean ears and do the ear hair plucking if necessary. Clip nails and grind or file them. Do the required coat treatments, dematting or de-shedding and give them a good bath and blow dry. Make sure their sanitary clipping is done well if needed. No other clipper work or scissor work is necessary until the competition.

Ensure the pet you take is healthy ,has had enough rest and is well fed and walked so it is easier handle while grooming. The dog should not be restless and unhappy or else the pet could bark insistently and can cause disturbance to other groomers and other pets. A happy pet will be more co operative for grooming.

Before considering the pet for grooming you must be aware of its body structure, coat texture and skin condition. Only then will you realise and understand how to groom the pet , in what fashion and style so that it would showcase your talent and capability as a groomer. This will help

you achieve your goal more effectively.

Your pet should not have tangles, knots or matted hair before a competition if it's a long haired pet. If it is a short or smooth coated breed you have to make sure there is no shedding problems else it would make the pet seem un-groomed and untidy. And that is not a good impression for you as a groomer or for the pet you work on.

As you prepare your pet for the competition make sure that there are no cuts or bruises either before or after you've groomed the pet . You must understand that the neatness, cleanliness and care you take as a groomer sums up to the presentation of the pet in a competition.

Being a good groomer also means you need to be responsible for the pet you are grooming . Handling and caring for the pet while grooming may not be as easy as it sounds but is very necessary . This not only puts you at an advantage but also determines the quality of your work and you as a groomer.

It is easy to get flustered with the pressure you might face , but remember to keep calm and work with concentration.

### **The Event**

While being judged, all aspects of your behavior and your style of grooming will be taken into consideration. The quality of your work and use of tools will be noted . The manner you approach the pet and the course of grooming you choose will be a factor in deciding your experience as a groomer .

Make sure you remove all hair, equipment and products from the grooming table after your have finished grooming your pet. Place a comb on the table for the judges to use during judging. You should always stack your pet to present to the judges.

Mistakes may happen but do not beat yourself up about it, We are all after all human. Instead learn from them and remember we are all winners. Whether you take home the prize or not , do everything to your best ability and this will make you learn and grow as an individual. Enjoy your experience and allow the pet to enjoy it too. This will not only be a platform for you to grow as a groomer but also a prestigious association to call yourself as a part of India's finest grooming competition.

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She is the first Indian to participate in an International Professional Grooming Competition and win the 3rd place in the intermediate class of pure breeds at "Supergroom " held in Las Vegas in July, 2014.