

HOW TO BECOME A PET GROOMER

Fuzzy Wuzzy Pet Styling Studio and Spa, India's premier Grooming and Styling Parlour for Pets was started In Bangalore in the year 2000 by Yashodhara, proud owner of Yashbans, one of India's most reputed and leading kennels. It is co-owned by her two daughters, Rishya and Radhiya, both very talented and experienced Groomers and Pet Stylists and Prithvi Jayakaran, owner of Glenands Pet shops, a chain of reputed retail pet shops in Bangalore.

Yashodhara, being in the field of pets, and show dogs in particular, found that India lacked the much needed expertise in grooming and styling pets ,and there were absolutely no trained professional in this field. She also found that this field of Pet Grooming had a lot of potential as a business venture and hence got herself and her daughters trained abroad, just to have the experience of grooming and understanding the different styling of exotic dogs, including a wider range of pets, as these were not available in India. She however feels that it is her involvement with her kennels YASHBANS which breed India's finest pedigreed dogs for over three decades now, that has given her and her daughters the much needed expertise to groom Show dogs. Bangalore being a hub for Expatriates who come in with many exotic breeds of Pets and who have them groomed at Fuzzy Wuzzy gives them the opportunity to try different styles of trimming and shaping on the pets. Her Pet Boarding facilities where some of the exotic pets are boarded , has also contributed to the success of her Fuzzy Wuzzy Pet Styling Studio and Spa as well as her Fuzzy Wuzzy Pet Grooming School.

Yashodhara understood that there were many drawbacks that Grooming Schools abroad experienced, as they did not have enough live pets to work on everyday for students to gain the much needed practical experience. Theory alone is not sufficient to become a Pet Groomer nor can you gain any experience by just watching the Professionals do the job. Yashodhara knew she could have an advantage here as her students could work on the dogs from her kennels

practically everyday and gain the much needed experience. Also, with the knowledge she had earned over these past three decades regarding the conformation of show dogs, would go that extra mile to teach her students how to camouflage the visible defects in Show dogs and present them in a more appealing way. Also it was necessary that newcomers in this new field had friendlier dogs to begin their training with, so that they can slowly build up courage to handle any dog with any type of temperament. With Yashbans as her backbone, and her two daughters as her main supports, Yashodhara ventured into this idea of starting Fuzzy Wuzzy Pet Grooming School in the late 2009 and seven students have already completed their Course successfully and are running their own Pet Grooming Parlours today. Though Yashodhara can have many students at one time, she however, does not take more than two students per course.. This is because she feels that they should have total supervision so that they do not make any mistakes during their grooming classes that might hurt the pet. Hence Fuzzy Wuzzy Pet Grooming school has two student only per course, with three experienced Teachers, guiding and instructing them all the way.

To enroll for this Course, the only requirement you need is genuine love for animals, a passion to work with animals, a certain amount of stamina, and tons of tons of patience., Yashodhara takes care of all other aspects to make you a successful Pet Groomer. Teenagers and adults from any walks of life can undertake this course as it is an intensive course which is taught for 100 hours with hands on practice everyday, supported by theory and visuals, and regular lectures and discussions.

Fuzzy Wuzzy Pet Grooming School offers the 1st level of Professional Pet Grooming at the moment. This Course is sufficient to start your own Pet Grooming Parlour . Yashodhara intends to start the 2nd level of Professional Pet Grooming which would enable to understand the conformation of different breeds of dogs, Cosmetic and creative Styling and shaping different breeds of dogs, and varying their looks if need be, as per the demands of the Client. If a Client wants a Lion Cut, or a Teddy Bear cut or a Lamb cut, you should be able to do it. You will have to be more artistic here, with a lot of creativity. This Course

would however be for a minimum period of three months, to enable to student to gain enough expertise in styling.

In the 1st level of the Professional Pet Grooming Course, the curriculum would be as follows.

1. Identification of different breeds of dogs and cats, understanding their anatomy or their conformation to enable you to proceed later to Level II .
2. Correct restraint of ferocious dogs and cats, without the use of sedation
3. Emergency first aid for animals that might panic sometimes.
4. Understanding the different types of Grooming equipments and their uses.
5. Eye Cleaning and tearstain removal
6. Teeth brushing
7. Ear cleaning and hair plucking from ear canal
8. Nail clipping and trimming of hairs underneath and in between pads
9. Hygiene areas clipping.
10. Correct methods of brushing ,de-matting, and de-shedding of coat
11. Correct techniques of massages.
12. Correct techniques of bathing, drying with the correct use of equipments
13. Identifying various skin ailments and treatments.
14. Finishing and Presentation.
15. Show grooming of two popular small breeds of toy dogs, one smooth coat and one long coat,
16. Show grooming of two popular medium breed of dogs, one smooth coat and one medium to long coat.
17. Show grooming of two popular large breed of dogs, one smooth coat and one medium to long coats.

Before anyone decides on taking up Professional Pet Grooming as a Career option, you must understand the Pros and Cons of such a Career.

The disadvantages are;

Most clients might find the charges exorbitant and would ask you why you charge so much for a Pet Grooming when a hair stylist for humans is so much cheaper. Well, my answers are,

You do not snap or snarl or bite your hairstylist. Whereas you as a Pet Groomer can be bitten, scratched or even mauled.

You have to have a lot of energy to restrain some unwilling pets who are simply petrified of bathing or having their nails clipped because of a bad experience earlier. A human hairstylist does not have to restrain any bad tempered client physically.

Your pet will most probably never stand still while you are clipping or trimming him. You have to have tons and tons of patience. You of course, on the hand would stand still even without being told.

You can never give an appointment with a correct timing for your next pet. You have to pray that the present pet allows you to finish your job on time. Human hair dressers can stick to their appointments.

Your pet can poop and pee on your table. You don't do that to your hair dresser.

Compared to the disadvantages, the advantages are much, much more of course; It is the most enjoyable profession today if you love animals.

The Pets can show you appreciation for every little thing you do with tons of licks.

They don't criticize you for any of the mess you might do to them or hurt them,

You feel you have created a wonderful piece of art after a successful clipping operation.

You are absolutely stress free when you groom a pet and all your concentration is on the pet. It is almost like meditation.

You do something you love, you are following your passion, and yet get paid handsomely for it.

After weighing the pros and cons and then if you think you are tailor made for this profession, Yashodhara will offer you some basic tips to become a better Groomer and a Stylist in the next issue. With this basic understanding of grooming by theory first, and then with your practical training at Fuzzy Wuzzy, Yashodhara is sure that you don't have to pursue success and satisfaction. These would follow you naturally as pets do..

By Yashodhara

Websites : www.yashbans.com

www.fuzzywuzzy.in