



Working as a...

Dog Groomer

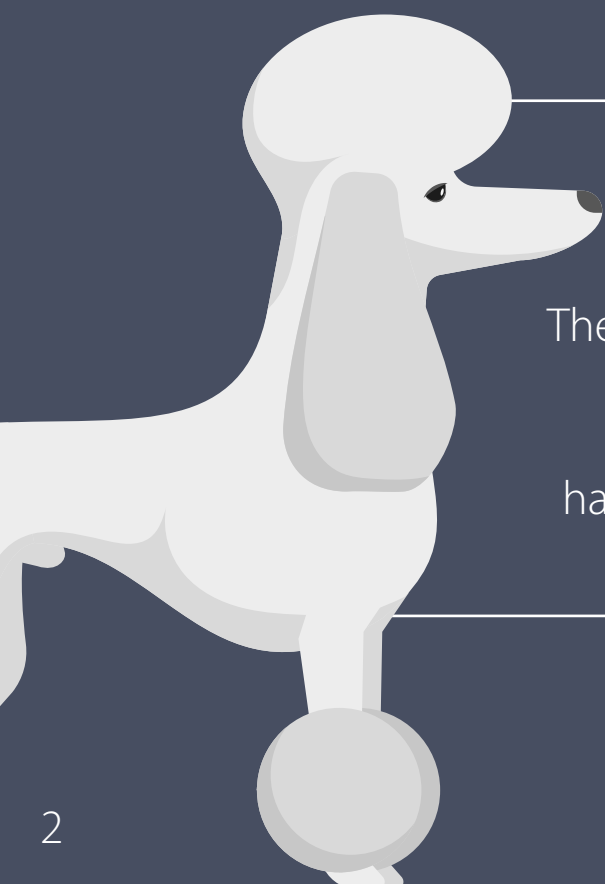
Careers
Guide 



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More about The College of Animal Welfare

The College of Animal Welfare was established in 1989 with the vision to use education to help tackle animal welfare issues. Today, we have fully equipped dog grooming schools in Huntindon, Cambridgeshire and Leeds. i

What do Dog Groomers do?



As a dog groomer you'll get to work with dogs every single day, and carry out a range of important duties...

Provide services such as baths, tidy ups, full clips, hand strips, nail clipping and ear cleaning

Carry out basic health checks

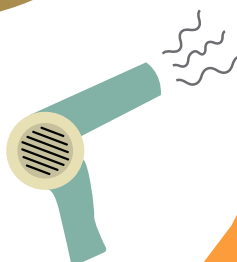
Bathe, dry and style dogs to 'breed standard' or customer specification

Discuss the dog's grooming requirements and history with the owner

Identify parasites and signs of infection in dogs

Advise owners on grooming requirements and coat care in between grooms

And much more!



Is Dog Grooming for me?



Why become a Dog Groomer?

Dog Grooming is a natural choice for those with their heart set on working with dogs. Joining the profession offers many benefits:

Work with dogs every single day

Dog Groomers make a real difference to the lives of dogs every single day. The sense of purpose that comes from providing valuable health-related services such as trimming nails, bathing, cleaning ears and checking for skin conditions, makes dog grooming a rewarding and worthwhile career.

Gain flexible working options

Groomers have the option of setting flexible working arrangements. Most groomers don't work office hours, even when working in commercial salons it can be very flexible. Some choose to open their own business so they can set their own days and hours to suit their lifestyle.

Benefit from varied career options

Once you have completed formal training you can choose to work in an established parlour to gain further valuable industry experience or set up your own business; either mobile, renting a table in a groomers, help expand an existing animal business like doggy day care, kennels, pet shops by adding a grooming service or just open your own salon! With all this experience you may even want to get involved with training future dog groomers!

Gain the gift of life-long learning

Dog groomers are always learning new techniques and skills, whether from practical experience, other groomers, CPD courses or trade shows. Top groomers often seek out innovations designed to improve their work.

Personal Qualities and Skills

Dog groomers are hard-working, passionate about dogs and dedicated to their work. Take a look at some of the skills and qualities that make a good dog groomer:

Passion for canine health

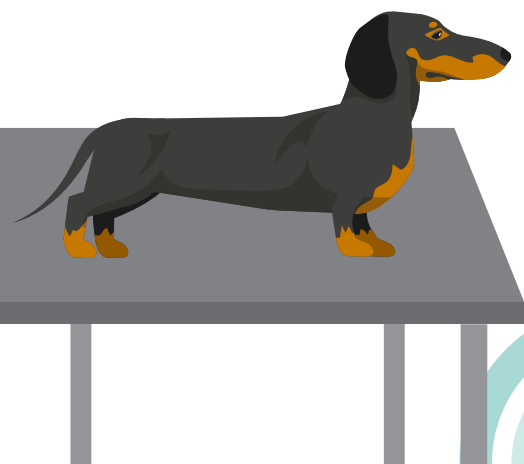
It goes without saying that working as a dog groomer is a great choice for those who are caring, giving and motivated to do the best for their canine friends.

Good customer service skills

Customer service skills are extremely important for those hoping to become successful dog groomers. Whilst you spend most of the time working with dogs, you have to be able to communicate clearly with each owner to understand their dog's requirements, and build up a rapport to encourage repeat custom.

Patience of steel

Some cuts can take a long time to complete and require extremely careful scissor work. Not only this, some dogs may not cooperate when placed upon the grooming table. Groomers must be patient and persistent throughout the entire process and know when to give the dog a break if necessary.



How do you become a Dog Groomer?



Qualifications and Training

The British Dog Grooming Association recognises the City & Guilds accredited dog grooming courses as a professional standard required by all dog groomers:

- Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants
- Level 3 Diploma in Dog Grooming

There are not usually any formal academic qualifications required to start training as a dog groomer, however many training providers will look favourably on:

- Qualifications in Maths and English
- Experience working with dogs
- Relevant personal qualities and skills (see page 5)

View page 8 for more details about dog grooming training at CAW.



How to Gain Work Experience or Employment Working with Dogs

It is always advisable to gain experience working with dogs before applying for a training programme or job.

Take a look at our top tips and advice:



Check online job boards for dog grooming positions including Indeed, the CAW Jobs Board and Animal Jobs Direct.



Follow local dog grooming parlours and doggy daycares on social media to be the first to see any new vacancies posted.



Contact your local dog groomers directly to ask for a work placement or enquire about employment opportunities.



Attend relevant open evenings and career days such as our *Careers With Animals Day* to discuss your career plans with colleges and dog grooming parlours.



Dog grooming can be for everyone - a first time career choice or a change in career later in life; the passion to improve the welfare of dogs is the best starting point! Give us a call to see if it would be for you!



Dog Grooming Qualifications at The College of Animal Welfare



Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants

This qualification is aimed at those entering the dog grooming industry for the first time with no formal training or experience. This course covers all the basics such as handling and restraint, bathing and drying dogs, maintaining equipment and basic trimming.

Level 3 Diploma in Dog Grooming

The level 3 dog grooming course builds upon the knowledge gained during Level 2 Certificate for Dog Grooming Assistants qualification and will give you the skills and abilities to work as a professional dog groomer. You will need to complete the Level 2 Certificate before progression onto the Level 3 Diploma.

Dog Grooming Seminars and Live Demos

We run a range of grooming seminars throughout the year to help dog groomers continue to develop their professional skills and knowledge. Visit cpd.caw.ac.uk to find out more.

As one of the largest providers of dog grooming training in the UK, we can offer you the opportunity to train alongside a community of like-minded students who all share a passion for dogs and a desire to join an exciting and rewarding profession.

Visit www.caw.ac.uk/dg for more details about our courses.

Career Progression for Dog Groomers



Career opportunities for qualified dog groomers are varied and wide-ranging...

Get a job
in a dog
grooming
parlour

Set up your own
home or mobile
dog grooming
business

Compete in
dog grooming
competitions

Teach dog
grooming
students as a
practical skills
trainer

And
much
more!

Study additional
qualifications
such as the Higher
Diploma in Dog
Grooming



Huntingdon * Leeds * North London * Edinburgh * Wigan

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