

either side of the stage in the convention hall. No high velocity dryers to be used in the prep areas in the convention hall.

## **Main Competition Schedule**

### **Friday May 16th**

8am check-in  
8:30am prejudge  
9am **Wire Coat**  
9am **Clipper Classic**

1pm-check-in  
1:30pm prejudge  
2pm - **All Other Purebred**

### **Saturday May 17th**

8am check-in  
8:30am prejudge  
9am **Sporting**  
9am **Salon Free Style**

12:30pm check-in  
1pm prejudge  
2pm **Poodle**  
5:30pm Abstract Design Check In  
5:45pm **Abstract Design**

### **Sunday May 18th**

8:30am judging **Model dog**  
9am check-in  
9:30 Prejudge  
10am - **Creative Duo Team Challenge**  
2pm - Best In Show Awards

## **GroomTeam USA Sanctioned Class Rules**

### **Acceptable Coat Growth for All GroomTeam USA, Inc. Sanctioned Classes**

It is the responsibility of the show promoter and/or their designated judges to determine adequate coat growth. Minimum of 6 weeks of hair growth or noticeable change.

### **Acceptable Styling for All GroomTeam USA, Inc. Sanctioned Classes**

- ★ All styling must take place during the time frame of the competition except where noted below.
- ★ All dogs must be groomed according to breed standard with the exception of poodles as noted below.
- ★ All dogs may have sanitary areas and pads shaved prior to class start.
- ★ All dogs may have nails trimmed and ears cleaned prior to class start.
- ★ Finishing sprays are permissible in order to tidy up after the competition time frame ends. However, re-shaping with water or product application is prohibited.
- ★ Chalk products are permissible prior to and during the competition time frame but are prohibited after time is called.
- ★ Wire coats must be hand stripped. Clippers are only permissible as presented in the conformation show ring.
- ★ Sporting coats must be carded and/or handstripped. Clippers are only permissible as presented in the conformation show ring.
- ★ Other purebreds must be styled as presented in the conformation show ring.
- ★ Poodles can be styled as presented in the conformation show ring or pet trims, provided they respect the breed profile as set forth by the standard.

### **Poodles:**

Acceptable Breeds: All sizes, natural colors of purebred Poodles.

This class may be split into two separate classes as follows: 17" and under, over 17".

11" and under: **1:30** (one hour and thirty minutes)

Over 11" and up to and including 17": **1:45** (one hour and forty-five minutes)

Over 17" and up to and including 23": **2:00** (two hours)

Over 23": **2:15** (two hours and fifteen minutes)

When splitting the Poodle class, the following stipulations apply:

A competition must take place between the three (3) finalists from each of the two Open Division Poodle classes to determine the placements of the combined Poodle class, for a final 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for all Open Division Poodles. Only the Final place winners may be awarded GroomTeam USA, Inc. points.

Poodle Styling: All pet and show Poodle styles are acceptable provided they respect the breed profile of the poodle.

- ★ Feet must be shaved.
- ★ Feet may be shaved prior to competition start time. No extra time will be permitted if not completed prior to class start.
- ★ Face must be shaved during the competition time frame.
- ★ Small mustaches or goatees are permitted.

- ★ Scissored face styles such as Bichon or scissored typefaces are prohibited.
- ★ Show topknots may be pre-banded, including hair extensions prior to the start of the class, spray up products are prohibited prior to the start of the class.

#### **Sporting:**

Acceptable Breeds Open Division: Spaniels and Setters ([see specific breed list](#))

Styling: Must be groomed to breed profile as presented in the conformation show ring.

Time Frame: 2 hours

#### **All Wire Coated Pure Breeds:**

Acceptable Breeds Open Division: Pure breeds with wire coat types that are hand stripped ([see specific breed list](#))

Styling: Must be groomed to breed profile as presented in the conformation show ring.

Time Frames: ([see specific breed list](#))

#### **All Other Pure Breeds:**

Acceptable Breeds Open Division: ([see specific breed list](#))

Styling: Must be groomed to breed profile as presented in the conformation show ring.

Time Frames: ([see specific breed list](#))

#### **Awards:**

Open (GroomTeamUSA Sanctioned): 1st, 2nd, 3rd in all above 4 categories with BIS

Novice: 1st, 2nd, 3rd in all above 4 categories with BIS

1st Timers: 1st in all above 4 categories with BIS

### **GroomTeam USA Code of Conduct**

The GroomTeam USA, Inc., Code of Conduct establishes expectations for professional behavior and actions of all GroomTeam USA, Inc., point holders. Adhering to these policies protects the reputation and perception of the groomers on an individual level, as well as the entire organization.

As a member in good standing of GroomTeam USA, Inc., I promise to:

- ★ Aspire to the highest professional standards.
- ★ Treat all team members and industry professionals with respect, honesty, and kindness.
- ★ Treat all pets with kindness, patience, and respect, and provide for their health and safety while they are entrusted to my care.
- ★ Continue to pursue education and skill development.

- ★ Encourage unity among pet stylists by promoting professionalism, the highest ethical standards, education and creativity.
- ★ Exhibit conduct befitting these standards in my actions, whether it be in writing, in person, or through online communications.
- ★ Discourage unprofessional behavior towards others in my industry community.
- ★ Adhere to the standards of conduct and sportsmanship rules.

I understand that failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct may result in the elimination of honors and privileges awarded by GroomTeam USA.

## **RWGroomX Class Rules**

### **General Class Rules**

-A groomer who has never competed before is allowed to sign up for Novice division if they prefer instead of 1st timers.

First timer competitors that are judged in 1st timer categories to receive 1st timer awards. Best 1st timer competitor will additionally be merited to be judged in the Novice Class in that respective category.

### **The Clipper Classic.**

**Contest Time Limit:** 2 hours

**Divisions:** Open to all competitors at any level.

**Acceptable Breeds:** Any purebred or mixed breed. All dogs must have a minimum of 4-6 weeks coat growth.

#### **General Rules:**

This is a solo clipper class. This class will challenge groomers to style any breed using only clippers. Feel free to follow the breed standard or create a unique style to accentuate the dog's conformation.

- ★ The hair may be lifted with combs or fingers.

- ★ Any kind of clippers (with or without snap-on combs) are allowed.
- ★ Scissors are not allowed during this competition, with the exception of the final 10 minutes for final touches. The use of scissors at any time during the competition other than the designated "Scissors Up" period will be cause for disqualification.
- ★ All clipper work must be done in the ring during the allotted competition time. There is no pre-clipping allowed in this class.
- ★ Pads and sanitary areas are to be done prior to the contest start time.
- ★ For Poodles: Clipped feet and faces must be done during the competition time frame.

#### **Final Judging:**

Entries will be judged based upon adherence to the rules. Groomers should strive to complete a balanced groom that highlights their clipper work.

Judge will evaluate the following:

- ★ Balance, symmetry, uniformity, and style of the trim.
- ★ The ability of the groomer to execute the style chosen which suits the dog according to his/her body type, structure, and coat.
- ★ Clipper work should be smooth and free of irritation.
- ★ Difficulty will be assessed with regard to the amount of coat removed, difficulty of the coat type, texture, quality and quantity.

#### **Friday May 16th**

8am check-in  
8:30am prejudge  
9am **Clipper Classic**

#### **Awards:**

1st Place: \$50.00/Ribbon  
2nd Place: \$30.00/Ribbon  
3rd Place: \$20.00/Ribbon

### **The Salon Freestyle.**

#### **Contest Time Limit:**

17" and under: 1:45 (one hour and forty-five minutes)

Over 17": 2:00 (two hours)

**Divisions:** Open, Novice, First Timers

#### **Acceptable Breeds:**

Any dog of mixed parentage, such as a Doodle or a Shih-Poo. Any AKC purebred dog distinctly NOT styled to breed standard (see below for examples).

Examples of acceptable styles include, but are not limited to:

- ★ Poodle (no shaved feet or face) in a kerry trim,
- ★ Poodle (no shaved feet or face) in a spiral trim,
- ★ Shih Tzu in a panda trim,
- ★ Trending styles such as Asian Fusion, the Poodlington, unique pet styles, and breed trims created on alternative mixed or any AKC purebred dogs.

#### **General Rules:**

Groomers may:

- ★ Use multiple bows for tie-ups.
- ★ Use small amounts of color (10% or less) may be added with chalk, blow pens, or markers.
- ★ Pre-band show top-knots including hair extensions and curlers prior to the start of the class.

Groomer may NOT:

- ★ Use spray products prior to the start of the class. This is prohibited.

#### **Accessories:**

Accessories, such as decorative collars are allowed. However, per the judge's request, accessories must be removed during the final judging.

#### **Final Judging:**

Judges will evaluate the following: balance, symmetry, finish and mastery of the trim.

Contestants will be evaluated on the mastery of the above criteria while showcasing each dog according to his/her body type, structure, and coat type.

- ★ For scissored dogs, this evaluation includes creating a plush overall appearance without scissor marks.
- ★ For handstripped and/or carded dogs, proper technique to achieve a natural appearance.
- ★ All clipper work should be smooth and free of marks and irritation.

- ★ Difficulty will be evaluated with regard to the amount of coat removed, coat type, texture, quality and quantity, and the overall design chosen and its suitability for the dog.
- ★ If color is used in your entry, the color will NOT be considered in judging.

### **Saturday May 17th**

8am check-in

8:30am prejudge

9am **Salon Free Style**

#### **Awards:**

1st Place: \$50.00/plus Rosette

2nd Place:\$30.00/plus Rosette

3rd Place:\$20.00/plus Rosette

## **The Abstract Design Challenge.**

### **One big contest.**

**Contest Time Limit:** 1:30 (one hour and 30 minutes)

**Divisions:** Open to all competitors at any level.

**Acceptable Breeds:** Any purebred or mixed breed dog or cat with any coat type.

#### **General Rules:**

The essence of the abstract design challenge is creating a masterpiece with the simplicity of color (less than 10% of the design), accents, adornments and accessories. The competitors should enter the ring with a groomed dog or cat, with no trace of a preset design or sculpted pattern. Judges are looking for exceptional sculpting and artistry with the design being reproducible in a salon appointment setting.

- ★ Design must be created entirely within the time frame of the competition.
- ★ There should be no trace of a preset design or sculpted pattern in the coat before the contest start time.
- ★ Competitors will provide biographical information and inspiration behind the design entry to the MC at check-in for the abstract design challenge.
- ★ Visual or written instructions or any outside coaching is strictly prohibited in the contest ring.

#### **Final Judging:**

The judging emphasis is placement of the design, execution, artistry, precision, and overall appeal. If color is used on your entry, it is not taken into consideration during final judging.

#### **Schedule:**

### **Saturday May 17th**

5:30pm Abstract Design Check In

5:45pm **Abstract Design**

7:00pm Judging

#### **Awards:**

1st Place: \$50.00/Ribbon

2nd Place: \$30.00/Ribbon

3rd Place: \$20.00/Ribbon

## **The Model Dog Contest.**

#### **General Rules:**

This is a pre-groomed contest. You may (we encourage) delivery and set up your model dog entry starting on **(FRIDAY AM OR YOUR FIRST DAY AT THE EVENT)** at the Grooming Contest Stage at RW GroomX. **All model dogs must be registered with the grooming contest coordinators prior to placing the model dogs on the platform.**

All model dogs must be completed and delivered to the contest stage by the deadline on **Sunday at 8:15** am. No late entries will be accepted.

Model dogs must be fully groomed into any Purebred, Freestyle or Creative Style and ready to present to the judges by Sunday at 8:30am

Registered competitors must purchase Model dogs before the show.

You may enter as many dogs as you like. Each contest entry is \$35 and must be purchased through our online registration. Model Dogs available for purchase through **Sasha Riess** at the event for use in 2026.

All registered contestants will receive product giveaways at the show sponsored and provided by **Sasha Riess**.

#### **Final Judging:**

The model dog award ceremony will be held on Sunday at 8:30am. All competitors must be present at the contest ring by 8:15am. Each category will have 1st place.

If you are entering a creative model dog, judging will be based more on the intricacy of the detail work rather than the adornments (non-hair accessories) added to create the design.

If you are entering a free-style model dog, the use of small amounts of color (10% or less) may be added with chalk, blow pens, or markers.

#### **Sunday May 18th**

8:30am judging **Model dog**

#### **Awards**

1st purebred: \$100.00 plus Rosette

1st freestyle: \$100.00 plus Rosette

1st Creative: \$100.00 plus Rosette

### **The Creative Duo Challenge.**

**Contest Time Limit:** 3 hours

**Divisions:** Open to all competitors at any level.

#### **Acceptable Breeds:**

Any purebred or mixed breed is allowed in this class.

#### **General Rules:**

Two Groomers, One Dog: Groomed to Perfection to Show Off Your Collaborative Talent.

Two groomers will work simultaneously on one dog.

★ If a team has members with different skill levels, the team will be judged based on the highest skill level within the team. For example, if one groomer is a first-timer and another is a novice, the team will be judged as a novice. The team's overall skill level will reflect the highest experience level of any team member.

★ For Poodle Styles: Spray products are prohibited prior to the start of the class.

#### **Accessories:**

Groomers may use accessories for tie-ups if they are relevant or necessary to the style or theme of the groom. However, they should not distract from the overall impression/movement of the groom/dog itself.

#### **Final Judging:**

Entries will be judged based upon adherence to the rules. Judge will evaluate the following:

- For scissored dogs, the execution of a plush overall appearance without scissor marks ie...a clean finish
- Clipper work should be smooth and free of irritation.

★ Special considerations will be given for difficulty, combined teamwork, and the ability for the team to work cohesively together.

- The difficulty with regard to the amount of coat removed, difficulty of the coat type, texture, quality and quantity.
- Minimum of 50% color required
- No dyeing in the ring
- DVD presentations are not permitted.
- If desired, music may be used during the presentation. Music used for presentation is the sole responsibility of the competitor and to be coordinated with RWGroomX IT/sound department.
- This is to be a creation from both parties/groomers, created specifically for this class. An individual's creative design that has been competed with previously within the last year is not acceptable.
- Backdrops are highly encouraged but not required. Please do not exceed a 5'x5' display of any sorts. Exhibits exceeding 5'x5' will be disqualified
- If you wish to dress to match your theme, please feel more than welcome to do so. This is not required in any way though but encouraged
- Props are encouraged, but not required.

- Absolutely no additional dogs on stage for presentation.
- Absolutely NO bribing!
- ★ All products used must be safe and non-toxic to the pet and stylist. Glue must be water-soluble.
- ★ Placement of large and/or heavy objects on the pet is prohibited.
- ★ Competitors must title their designs.
- ★ A maximum of 2 minutes is permitted per presentation.
- ★ Difficulty will be assessed with regard to the amount of coat removed, difficulty of the coat type, texture, quality and quantity.

without exception. By prioritizing the welfare of these animals, we can create a positive experience for everyone involved in the RW GroomX community.

Please respect the facility and grounds (including the lodging facilities) in regards to cleaning up after your dog. There are several sanitation stations located around the convention center and hotels.

Each competitor must register for the Creative Team (Duo) Challenge. The purchase price is per competitor not per team.

### **Sunday May 18th**

9am check-in

9:30 Prejudge

10am - **Creative Duo Team Challenge**

2pm - Best In Show Awards

#### **Awards:**

1st Place: Open skill level \$200.00/Team/plus Rosette

1st Place: Novice skill level \$200.00/Team/plus Rosette

1st Place: 1st timers skill level \$200.00/Team/plus Rosette

### **RW GroomX General Rules**

At RW GroomX, we are fully committed to the safety and well-being of every animal involved in the event. To ensure a safe and comfortable environment, we require that no attendee, competitor, or exhibitor leave any animal unattended in a vehicle at any time. We have provided a designated holding area - located on the second floor of the convention center - specifically for the comfort and safety of participating pets, and we strongly encourage its use.

Please be aware that this policy is enforced with zero tolerance. Any failure to comply will lead to immediate removal from the expo, and all associated fees will be forfeited