



*INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL GROOMERS, INC*

**CERTIFICATION  
PROGRAM**



## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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## ADVANTAGES OF CERTIFICATION

Thank you for expressing an interest in the International Professional Groomers' Certification Program. The International Professional Groomers, Inc. certifies Pet Groomers based upon their knowledge of all the recognized breeds, anatomy, terminology, bathing, safety, health, and sanitation.

The completion and successful award of IPG Certification exhibits your personal, desire and success in attaining the knowledge and practical skills to reach the levels of proficiency recognized among trade peers. The highest certification level is *International Certified Master Groomer* status.

Obtaining certification through IPG will stand as a solid credential to prospective clients or employers, assuring them you possess the passion and drive to enhance your knowledge and skill. The certification process not only enhances the image of your industry, it will show you are much more desirable and qualified to prospective employers or when presenting your business proposal to planning commissions and loan departments. Certification is a great way to validate your professionalism.

Once you embark on the road to certification, regardless of your skill level, you will be learning more about grooming skills, especially as they are applied to groom dogs according to the breed standards published by the AKC or your country's breed standards.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION

IPG membership is open to all persons interested in the Pet Grooming Industry. The process of obtaining IPG certification is open to all professional groomers who are IPG members in good standing who agree to abide by the IPG Code of Ethics. You must show your IPG membership card at testing site to verify membership!

## IPG CERTIFICATION

The IPG Certification process is a series of practical and written examinations whereby the expertise and proficiency of professional groomers may be demonstrated and certified. It recognizes groomers whose professional knowledge, techniques and abilities have been certified as having met the high standards set forth by the International Professional Groomers, Inc.

To become IPG Certified groomer, achieved an *International Model of Pet Grooming Distinction* in one to four phases, applicants must pass up to five practical tests and four written tests with scores of 70% or better.

- ▲ Salon Details: practical test and written test
- ▲ Non-Sporting Breeds: practical test and written test
- ▲ Sporting Breeds: practical test and written test
- ▲ Terrier Breeds: two practical tests and written test

To become an IPG *International Certified Master Groomer (ICMG)*, applicants must pass all tests with scores of 86% or better and pass an extensive Master's Exam with a score of 86% or better. (See chart on last page.)

## TESTING FEES

*Practical Tests*.....\$75.00 each.....5 tests

*Written Tests*.....\$ 45.00 each.....4 tests

*Master's Exam*.....\$120.00

**Total Testing Fees: \$655.00**

Retakes of any test.....*half of original price*

(Retakes allowed 30 days following date of last testing or last re-testing of exam to be retaken).

## PRACTICAL SKILLS EXAMINATIONS

There are five practical skills exams which demonstrate grooming skills before two IPG certifiers. Two hours will be allowed for the completion of each practical exam. All testing is managed with the strictest confidence. Decisions of Certifiers are final!

In order to certify practical grooming skills, IPG, Inc has established an “*International Model of Pet Grooming Distinction*”. This includes preparation of the dog’s coat, scissor techniques, clipper techniques, thinning shear techniques, carding and hand-stripping techniques, and finishing techniques.

Dogs are to be bathed and fluff dried and completely mat-free prior to the testing, with the exception of the Salon Details test, by the applicant. NO CRATE DRYING please! Nails should be trimmed and ears cleaned. Pads and sanitary trimming *may* be done prior to testing. The ***dog should have at least six weeks of growth*** prior to testing. REMEMBER proper preparation and choice of dogs is a vital part of a good finished groom and will be scored accordingly!

If you would like to groom a breed not listed below, please contact IPG to see if it is allowed.

The Certifiers are aware that as a pet groomer, you are frequently working with less than perfect specimens. Allowances will be made by the Certifiers for variations necessitated by less than perfect structure and conformation of your dog. However, allowances will not be made for faults and variations necessitated by poor grooming technique, rough handling or lack of knowledge.

### SALON DETAILS PRACTICAL (1)

Applicant will demonstrate bathing, drying, and brush-out skills on any coated breed. You will be asked to demonstrate the use of forced air dryer, fluff dryer, various brushes and combs, nail clippers, etc.

### NON-SPORTING BREEDS PRACTICAL (1)

Applicant will demonstrate grooming skills on a Toy, Miniature or Standard Poodle, or a Bichon Frise. Some of the grooming may be done with a snap-on comb, especially with larger dogs, but the groomer must demonstrate safe and competent use of scissors as well as scissor-finishing. You will be asked by the Certifiers to demonstrate the proper use of scissors and clippers for this test. Be sure you have these tools with you.

## SPORTING BREEDS PRACTICAL (1)

Applicant will demonstrate grooming skills on their choice of a Cocker Spaniel, English Cocker Spaniel, English Springer Spaniel, English Setter, Gordon Setter, or Irish Setter. Show grooming is not required for sporting breeds. The use of clippers on the body is allowed. Cockers may be trimmed in a “suburban” type trim with shorter *scissored* legs. Thinning shear and carding techniques are an integral part of the Sporting Breeds practical skills examination. You will be asked to demonstrate expertise and knowledge of thinning shears and stripping knives. *You are required to bring these tools when testing on Sporting Breeds!*

## TERRIER BREEDS PRACTICALS (2)

Applicant will demonstrate grooming skills on two terriers, a long-legged terrier and a short-legged terrier. A long-legged terrier includes: Schnauzer, Kerry blue terrier, Welsh terrier, Wire Fox Terrier, Lakeland terrier, Bedlington terrier or an Airedale terrier. A short-legged terrier includes: Scottish Terrier, West Highland White Terrier, Cairn Terrier or a Sealyham Terrier. Again, show grooming is not required for terriers. You may use clippers on their backs, but leave enough coat to show breed profile and coat type. “Carding” and “plucking” techniques are an integral part of the Terrier Breeds examinations. You will be asked to demonstrate your knowledge and usage of these tools and the techniques required to use them. *You are required to bring your “carding” and “plucking” tools when testing on terrier breeds.*

## WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

Written examinations are administered in each of the four phases, which are Salon Details, Non-Sporting, Terrier, and Sporting breeds. All questions will be from the AKC Complete Dog Book, 20<sup>th</sup> Edition and the IPG Certification Guidelines. You will be allowed one hour for each test. These tests may be taken in any order and need not be taken at the same time you take the practical skills test.

Questions will place emphasis on the parts of the breed standards and breed histories that may pertain to grooming that breed, recognition (size, color, coat, etc.), or temperament. There will questions on equipment, anatomy, terminology, safety and sanitation.

## CERTIFICATION

Upon successfully completing and passing all the “Practical Skills Tests” and “Written” examinations for Salon Details, Non-Sporting Breeds, Sporting Breeds and Terrier Breeds with a passing grade of “C” or higher (70%), you will be issued an IPG Certificate with seals for each Phase, stating that you have met the *International Model of Pet Grooming Distinction*.

## MASTERS EXAMINATION

Upon completion of all the written and practical skills tests with a score of 86% or better, the applicant is eligible to take the Master’s Examination. The Masters Examination will cover the breeds from the Herding, Working, Toy, and Hound groups. This test will place emphasis on the parts of the breed standards that may pertain to grooming that breed, breed recognition (color, coat, etc.), or temperament.

In order to attain ICMG status, this Masters Examination must be completed with a score of 86% or better. Upon passing these examinations, and achieving the *International Model of Pet Grooming Distinction*

you will be awarded a certificate as an **International Certified Master Groomer** and you may use the letters ICMG following your name and in all advertising.

## IPG CERTIFICATION EVENTS

A list of the dates and locations of upcoming certification tests is provided on the IPG web site: [www.ipgcmg.org](http://www.ipgcmg.org). If you are interested in hosting or attending a Certification Event and/or IPG Workshop, call or email IPG.

Most major grooming and trade shows are attended by IPG certifiers. You can certify with the dogs you use for competition or make arrangements are made to bring your own dog for certification.

## IPG WORKSHOPS

IPG educational workshops are offered to all who are interested in improving skills, techniques, and keeping current with industry trends. IPG workshops are encouraged before certifying to help you understand and properly prepare for all phases of testing. Workshops can be orientations, demonstrations, or hands-on. If you would like to attend an IPG workshop, please contact IPG or check the web site for dates of upcoming workshops.

## HOSTING AN IPG EVENT

If you would like to host an IPG Certification Event or an accredited workshop, please contact the IPG office. IPG Certifiers are available to conduct workshops. Workshops can also be set up the day prior to a certification event to help groomers prepare and answer questions.

## USE OF THE IPG DESIGNATION

All IPG Certified Groomers who maintain membership with IPG are authorized to use their Titles and the IPG logo in advertising and promotion, provided such is in good taste and adheres to IPG Code of Ethics. When using the logo in advertising, send a copy of the advertisement to Hayley Keyes, ICMG, 123 Manley Ave, Greensboro, NC 27407 or email to [Hayley.Keyes@ipgcmg.org](mailto:Hayley.Keyes@ipgcmg.org).

The IPG will publish an annual Directory of Certified IPG Groomers. It will list all IPG Certified Groomers who are IPG members in good standing.

## SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION

The following violations will result in immediate revocation or suspension of a Certified Groomer's good standing status by the IPG Board of Directors, unless in the judgment of the IPG Board, extenuating circumstances exist and the deficiency can be readily overcome. Suspension and Revocation of Certification will be published in the IPG quarterly newsletter.

- Failure to pay any or all fees owed to IPG, Inc.
- Substantial misconduct which may be construed as prejudicial to the best interests of IPG, Inc.
- Misuse of the IPG, Inc designation or logo.
- Substantial flagrant and gross violation of IPG, Inc. rules, regulations, By-Laws or Code of Ethics.

All individuals who have had their good standing and/or certification revoked or suspended will be notified in writing by the IPG Secretary.

They shall be suspended from the use of any IPG designation and will no longer be listed as a Certified Groomer in any IPG publications until such time as they submit proof to the IPG Board of Directors that they have corrected the problem that led to their revocation or suspension and will now abide by all of the rules, regulations and Code of Ethics set forth by the IPG, Inc Board of Directors.

## REINSTATEMENT

Reinstatement of their good standing and/or Certified Groomer status will occur upon approval by the IPG Board of Directors and the individual will be notified in writing by the IPG Secretary that their Reinstatement is complete. Reinstatement of Certification shall be published in the quarterly newsletter.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

The Complete Dog Book, 20<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Official Publication of the American Kennel Club  
Published by Ballantine Books, New York, 2006

Certification Guidelines  
International Professional Groomers, Inc  
Available from address below for \$35.00 plus \$10.00 S&H

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

503-581-1220—fax  
336-340-7915—Hayley Keyes -- [Hayley.Keyes@ipgcmg.org](mailto:Hayley.Keyes@ipgcmg.org)  
503-551-2397—Linda Easton-- [K9Concepts@aol.com](mailto:K9Concepts@aol.com)

**IPG**  
6475Wallace Rd, NW  
Salem, OR 97304  
USA

[www.IPGCMG.org](http://www.IPGCMG.org)

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# IPG MEMBERSHIP

