The Crufts Dog Grooming Competition
in partnership with Artero
Rules and Regulations 2027

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to enter the Crufts 2027 Dog Grooming Competition, competitors must have previously competed in **at least one in person** dog grooming competition. There is no restriction on when the competition took place. As part of the entry process, competitors will be required to provide details of one previous competition they have entered.

Classification of categories

Beginner-

All breeds/crossbreeds and sizes – 2 hours

All breeds/crossbreeds and techniques are permitted. Colouring is not allowed on any dog.

Intermediate-

All breeds/crossbreeds and sizes – 2 hours

All breeds/crossbreeds and techniques are permitted. Colouring is not allowed on any dog.

Hand Strip-

Small and Medium sizes (Under 45cm) – 2.5 hours

Large sizes (45cm and over) - 3 hours

Stripping knives are allowed. The dog needs to be groomed according to the breed standard. Chalk powder/block/spray and cream are allowed but should be brushed out of the dog for the final presentation.

No clippers except:

- Scottish Terrier – Throat, head and ears.
- West Highland Terrier - Throat and ears.
- Schnauzer - Throat, head, inside of back legs and ears.

Spaniels & Setters-

Timing as follows: All breeds, all sizes – 2.5 hours

Stripping and Carding knives are allowed. The dog needs to be groomed according to the breed standard. Chalk powder/block/spray and cream are allowed but must be brushed out of the coat for final presentation.

It is not allowed to use clippers except Spaniels and Setters throat and ears.

Poodles-

Toy & Miniature – 2 hours

Standard – 2.5 hours

Plus additional 15 minutes to spray up the top knot if required.

Clipper comb attachments are not permitted. Muzzle and feet should be shaven before the start of the competition and be groomed in a style recognised in the breed standard. Poodles with top knots may ask for help from an outsider to hold the dog; this is limited to 15 minutes. Colouring is not allowed.

Pure Breed Scissor (Breed Standard Trims only)-

Small & Medium (Under 45cm) – 2 hours

Large (45cm and over) – 2.5 hours

This is a class for Pure Breed dogs that cannot enter into our other classes and in a breed standard trim using all allowed techniques for that breed. Allowed techniques are classed as what is permissible if the dog is being entered into a Royal Kennel Club conformation show. All other pure-breed dogs include but are not limited to Bichon Frisé, Kerry Blue Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Bedlington Terrier, Lowchens. Colouring is not allowed.

Asian Style-

Small and Medium (Under 45cm) – 2 hours

Large (45cm and over) – 2.5 hours

Contestants may enter with any breed/crossbreed that is groomed in Asian style. Where an "Asian Style" trim is used there are to be no embellishments used with the exception of a single decorated collar/bow around the neck (decorated collars not allowed in main arena presentations). Colouring is **not** allowed on any dog.

Workshop-

Small and Medium (Under 45cm) – 2 hours

Large (45cm and over) – 2.5 hours

Competitors may enter with any breed/crossbreed that is groomed commercially. Breeds that are usually hand stripped can be clipped or scissored; long hair breeds can be clipped or scissored. Poodles are accepted if groomed in a non-standard poodle trim. Colouring is **not** allowed on any dog. All breeds and techniques may be used.

Classification of Levels

Beginner – For groomers with less than 2 years of experience, including training school/college. Capped entry numbers for each class on first come basis.

Intermediate – For groomers with 2-4 years' experience, including training school/college. Capped entry numbers for each class on first come basis.

Open – For those with 4 years' experience or more who are not eligible for entry in the Champion class. Bathing available in the morning (booked slots) if required. Capped entry numbers for each class on first come basis.

Champion – Open to those groomers who have won at least 3 Open Classes in the same category at UK or International competitions. If you have previously competed at Champion level in a category, you may not enter Open in the same category. Bathing available in the morning (booked slots) if required. Capped entry numbers for each class on first come basis.

We reserve the right to move entries up or down if placed in the wrong category If brought to our attention and following discussion.

General Rules

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to enter the 2027 Dog Grooming Competition, competitors must have previously competed in **at least one in person** dog grooming competition. There is no restriction on when the competition took place. As part of the entry process, competitors will be required to provide details of one previous competition they have entered.

Classes

- The Competition runs from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily.
- Top 3 Finalists will be announced in no particular order on completion of judging.
- The top three finalists in each level will receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, announced in the main arena. The 1st place winners from the Open and Champion levels in each category will go forward to compete for the overall winner finale, awarded on Sunday evening.

Equipment

- Manual adjustable tables provided
- Contestants must provide their own tools.
- No electricity will be provided.

Dogs

- Competitors must provide their own dog(s).
- Except when securely benched or caged, all dogs must be on a lead for the duration of the show, including in the exercising area, other than when positioned on the tables within the Dog Grooming competition ring.
- Dogs in season are not permitted.
- The use of borrowed dogs is permitted, provided the competitor has the permission of the dog's owner.
- Competitors must have an established relationship with the dog to ensure welfare and ethical standards are maintained.

- Bathing facilities will be available but must be pre-booked in advance.
- The dog's coat must be long enough to allow the groomer to make a difference in its appearance. All poodles must have a minimum of 5cm hair growth.
- Any evident line or pattern should not be visible.
- Competitors competing with dogs showing evident lines and/or without enough coat to make a difference in their appearance may be marked down or disqualified.
- The use of hairspray is limited to a minimal amount for Poodles with top knots only and must be brushed out following the competition.
- The use of powder/chalk is breed-specific and not allowed for just any breed. Breeds that require it are West Highland White Terrier, Fox Terrier (Wire), Welsh Terrier & Schnauzers (all sizes), Sealyham Terrier, Lakeland Terrier, Airedale Terrier, Norfolk Terrier, Norwich Terrier, Cairn Terrier. No trace of it should remain on the judge's hand after judgement has taken place.
- Any products that change the colour of the coat will not be allowed.
- For hygiene reasons, the underbelly, genitals, and hindquarters may be pre-groomed, provided it aligns with the breed standard.
- Nails should be trimmed before the competition if required.
- A 'Small/Medium' dog must measure under 45cm at the withers & 'Large' dog is any dog 45cm or over at the withers.
- Each morning and afternoon session will include a minimum of one 10-15 minute comfort break for all dogs after the first hour.
- **It is the responsibility of the Groomers to ensure that their dogs have water available to them at the tables.**
- No dogs are to be left unattended on the grooming tables at any time.

Competitors

- Competitors will be provided with a dog and handler pass and helpers pass via email.
- Competitors must be in the ring 15 minutes prior to the start of the competition.
- Competitors are not allowed to talk to other competitors and/or the audience during the competition. Anyone not following this rule will, on the first occasion, be warned by a steward or judge. On the second occasion, they will be disqualified.
- Competitors must not use a mobile phone or any electronic device for calls or messaging during the competition. Mobile phones may be used for playing music in head/earphones but must not otherwise be used once the competition has started. Anyone not following this rule will, on the first occasion, be warned by a steward or judge. On the second occasion, they will be disqualified.
- Any aggressive behaviour including foul language used towards the judges, other competitors, event staff or spectators will lead to disqualification.
- No competitor shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling. Handling a dog in a rough and/or unsafe manner will lead to disqualification.
- Any first aid emergencies should be reported to the steward immediately.
- A comb should be placed on the table for the judge to use during judging.

- Competitors may comb their dogs before and after the judging panel has evaluated their dogs.
- Competitors should stack their dog to present to the judge. Dogs not in judgment should not be kept stacked and should be relaxed.
- **Competitors must NOT display any sponsorship or promotional branding on their clothing in the Dog Grooming ring or Main Arena. Branded tunics are permitted where the branding is that of the clothing manufacturer.**
- Any complaint must be in writing and presented to show manager before the end of the event.
- Disqualifications will be executed by the show manager.

Dog Welfare and Temperament

Dogs entered into the competition must be of a suitable temperament to safely participate in a busy event environment. Competitors should be aware that the competition takes place in a public exhibition hall with occasional bright lighting, public viewing areas, announcements, and other dogs in close proximity. Dogs must be able to cope safely and comfortably with these conditions.

The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry, remove from the competition, or disqualify any dog where there are concerns regarding its temperament, behaviour, safety or welfare. The organisers' decision is final.

Participants must be aged 16 or over.