Dogs Australia Grooming Certification

Dogs Australia offers a nationally recognised certification program for canine groomers who wish to have their skills assessed against official breed standards.

Certification recognises a groomer's ability to groom and present purebred dogs in accordance with Dogs Australia breed standards. Successful candidates receive an official Dogs Australia Certificate that acknowledges their knowledge, practical skills and commitment to professional grooming.

As Australia's peak body for purebred dogs, Dogs Australia is the recognised authority responsible for maintaining the official breed standards for all recognised breeds. Certification provides groomers with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of correct breed presentation and grooming techniques against these nationally recognised standards.

What's the difference between a grooming certificate and a grooming certification?

A grooming certificate is more of a learning process, where you receive awards, a certificate or a document confirming you have completed a course.

A grooming certification, on the other hand, tests your skills and knowledge to meet specific standards in a class. Once you pass the certification exam, you'll earn an official credential from Dogs Australia, showing you've met industry standards and proven your level of expertise in a particular area.

What are the certifications Dogs Australia offers?

Dogs Australia offers a range of certification options, including Conformation Grooming and Salon Trim (Teddy Bear Trimming). These certifications cater to various grooming styles, from breed-specific conformation trims that highlight the natural attributes of the dog, to practical, yet stylish, salon trims popular in everyday grooming services. While participation in the Dogs Australia certification process is open to all professional groomers who hold a Dogs Australia State Body membership, it is not a mandatory requirement for working in the industry. However, earning a Dogs Australia certification can provide a significant competitive advantage by distinguishing canine groomers from their peers, enhancing credibility, and increasing client trust.

The pathway to obtaining a Dogs Australia Canine Grooming Certification is designed to progressively build a groomer's skills and expertise. Each level of certification reflects an increasing depth of knowledge and technical proficiency, allowing groomers to advance step by step through the program. The requirements for each certification level are straightforward, ensuring that groomers are properly assessed at each stage before progressing.

Level C

Open to all canine groomers who hold a Dogs Australia State Body membership, the Level C certification serves as the entry point into the Dogs Australia certification program. At this foundational level, groomers are assessed on their basic grooming skills, including general coat care, scissoring, and breed-specific knowledge. It lays the groundwork for those aspiring to advance through the higher certification levels. Candidates at this stage should demonstrate a solid understanding of grooming essentials and be prepared to refine their techniques as they progress through the program.

Level B

To be eligible for the Level B certification a groomer must be competing at Level B in the event where certification is being offered i.e. 2-4 years grooming experience from their first full groom. Level B represents an intermediate stage in the certification process, where groomers expand their skill set and begin to master more complex grooming tasks. This level includes a greater emphasis on conformation grooming, where candidates must demonstrate their ability to enhance a dog's natural appearance while maintaining its breed standard. A groomer that has passed a Level B certification has the option of purchasing a Level C certificate at a cost of $46.00 certificate if they do not currently possess this certificate.

Level A

The Level A certification is a significant milestone in a groomer's professional development. To qualify for Level A the groomer must be competing at Level A in the event where certification is being offered i.e. over 4 years grooming experience from their first full groom. This stage requires groomers to demonstrate their proficiency in more advanced grooming techniques, focusing on breed-specific trims and standards. Groomers at this level are expected to have an in-depth understanding of breed profiles, coat care, and the precision required for competitive grooming. A groomer that has passed a Level A certification has the option of purchasing a Level B and Level C certificate at a cost of $46.00 each certificate if they do not currently possess these certificates.

A+ Champion Canine Groomer

This prestigious title represents one of the highest levels of achievement in the Dogs Australia certification program. This title is awarded to candidates that have successfully completed and obtained the Level A certification with a score of 90% or greater. The A+ Champion certification signifies advanced grooming skills and mastery across multiple breeds and grooming styles, demonstrating the groomer's versatility, expertise, and professionalism. Achieving this certification places groomers among the elite in the industry.

AA+ Champion Canine Groomer

This prestigious title represents one of the highest levels of achievement in the Dogs Australia certification program. This title is awarded to candidates that have successfully completed and obtained the Level A certification with a score of 90% or greater. The A+ Champion certification signifies advanced grooming skills and mastery across multiple breeds and grooming styles, demonstrating the groomer's versatility, expertise, and professionalism. Achieving this certification places groomers among the elite in the industry.

Master Champion Canine Groomer

This title is awarded to candidates that have successfully completed and obtained the Level A certification with a score of 90% or greater in three of the four pure breed groups one of which being Poodle. The candidate must be assessed by at least two different judges.

This comprehensive achievement demonstrates exceptional skill and versatility across various grooming standards and international recognition.

Supreme Master Champion Canine Groomer
This award is the echelon milestone of the grooming titles. It is the highest award possible in a groomer's professional development.

This title is awarded to candidates that have successfully completed and obtained the Level A certification with a score of 90% or greater the following: -

1. **Pass Level A in all** five sanctioned grooming groups.
2. **Poodle Show Trims:** Pass two out of three recognised poodle show trims with one having a spray up. (Continental Trim, English Saddle Trim, or Scandinavian Trim).
3. **Long-Legged & Short Legged Terrier Grooming**: Pass Level A with one of the long-legged Terrier breeds (Airedale, Lakeland, Welsh, or Wire Fox Terriers) and pass Level A with one of the short-legged Terrier breeds (Jack Russell, Norfolk, Norwich, Scottish and West Highland White Terriers)



Fees

Participating in the Dogs Australia Canine Grooming Certification process involves both entry and certification fees, which ensure that candidates receive a fair and thorough assessment of their skills. These fees contribute to the administration and organisation of the certification program, including examination oversight and the awarding of official certificates upon passing.

Examination Fee

A nominal fee of $50.00 per certification is required at entry to the Dogs Australia Grooming Competition or Certification event. The examination fee of $50.00 is nonrefundable. The specific entry fee for each competition is determined by the Dogs Australia Member Body responsible for organising the event and may vary accordingly. It is essential for candidates to review the entry fee details for each competition they plan to enter.

We strongly recommend that candidates thoroughly review the Dogs Australia Canine Grooming Rules before entering, as a clear understanding of the rules is crucial for success in both the competition and the certification process. These rules outline the specific expectations for grooming techniques, breed standards, and overall presentation, ensuring fairness and consistency across all levels.

Grooming Certificate Fees

Upon successfully passing the examination, a certificate fee will apply based on the certification level achieved. This fee covers the cost of issuing an official Dogs Australia certification, which recognises your proficiency and achievement within the grooming profession.

- **Level C Certification: $100**

  This is the foundational level of certification, open to all canine groomers, and demonstrates a solid grasp of essential grooming techniques.

- **Level B Certification: $150 (optional Level C certificate additional $46.00)**

  An intermediate level of certification that reflects greater skill and knowledge, particularly in more advanced grooming practices and conformation grooming.

- **Level A Certification: $300 (optional Level B and Level C certificate additional $46.00 each)**

  The level of certification to achieve the A+ Champion title, Level A represents a mastery of breed-specific grooming and technical expertise across a wide range of grooming styles.

- **AA+ Champion Canine Groomer - $46.00**

  To achieve the Double A+ Champion Canine Groomer Designation, a groomer must successfully pass Level A in any two of the four pure breed groups, evaluated by different judges. This prestigious title reflects a high level of advanced skill and versatility across two grooming categories.

- **Master Champion Canine Groomer - $46.00**

  To earn the Designation of Master Champion Canine Groomer, a groomer must:

  1. **Pass Level A in three of the four** pure breed groups, with one of these groups being Poodle.

  2. Be assessed by at least two different judges.

  This comprehensive achievement demonstrates exceptional skill and versatility across various grooming standards and international recognition.

- **Supreme Master Champion Canine Groomer - $46.00**

  To attain the ultimate designation of Supreme Master Champion Canine Groomer, a groomer must meet the following criteria:

  1. **Pass Level A in all five** sanctioned grooming groups.

  2. **Poodle Show Trims:** Pass two out of three recognised poodle show trims with one having a spray up. (Continental Trim, English Saddle Trim, or Scandinavian Trim).

  3. **Long-Legged & Short Legged Terrier Grooming:** Pass Level A with one of the long-legged Terrier breeds (Airedale, Lakeland, Welsh, or Wire Fox Terriers) and pass Level A with one of the short-legged Terrier breeds (Jack Russell, Norfolk, Norwich, Scottish and West Highland White Terriers)

Please Note

Candidates who pass their certification exam are required to pay the applicable certificate fee within 30 days of the invoice issue date. This fee is only applicable to those who successfully complete the examination and wish to receive their official Dogs Australia certification. It is important to note that this fee is separate from the competition entry fee and must be paid in full for the certificate to be awarded.