DOGS AUSTRALIA
EST. 1958
NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

DOGS AUSTRALIA
CANINE GROOMING CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

Progress through the levels of certification and achieve the prestigious A+ Champion title.

LEVEL C

NOVICE LEVEL

Open to all canine groomers who hold a Dogs Australia State Body membership.

FOCUS

Basic grooming skills including general coat care, scissoring, and breed-specific knowledge. Lays the groundwork for advancement.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

No minimum experience required beyond a first full groom.

PASS LEVEL C EXAM and receive your Level C Certificate ($100)

OPTION
After passing Level B or A, you may purchase a Level C Certificate for $46 (if you do not already have it).

LEVEL B

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Competing at Level B in the event where certification is offered.

FOCUS

Expand skill set and begin to master more complex grooming tasks. Greater emphasis on conformation grooming and enhancing the dog's natural appearance while maintaining breed standard.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

2 – 4 years grooming experience from your first full groom.

PASS LEVEL B EXAM and receive your Level B Certificate ($150)

OPTION: Purchase Level C Certificate for $46 (if you do not already have it).

OPTION
After passing Level A, you may purchase a Level B Certificate for $46 (if you do not already have it).

LEVEL A

ADVANCED LEVEL

Competing at Level A in the event where certification is offered.

FOCUS

Demonstrate proficiency in advanced grooming techniques, focusing on breed-specific trims and standards. Requires in-depth understanding of breed profiles, coat care, and precision for competitive grooming.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Over 4 years grooming experience from your first full groom.

PASS LEVEL A EXAM and receive your Level A Certificate ($300)

OPTION: Purchase Level B Certificate for $46 (if you do not already have it).

OPTION: Purchase Level C Certificate for $46 (if you do not already have it).

A+ CHAMPION

PRESTIGIOUS TITLE

Awarded to a candidate who has successfully completed and obtained a Level A certification at 90% or greater.

REPRESENTS

One of the highest levels of achievement in the Dogs Australia certification program. Signifies advanced grooming skills, mastery across multiple breeds and grooming styles, versatility, expertise, and professionalism. Places groomers among the elite in the industry.

IMPORTANT: You must be competing at the appropriate level in the event where certification is offered to be eligible for that level.
(C = Open to all DA State Body members, B = 2 – 4 years, A = Over 4 years grooming experience).

FEES OVERVIEW

1. EXAMINATION / ENTRY FEE

A nominal fee of $50.00 is required at entry to a Dogs Australia Grooming Competition or Certification event.

- The $50.00 examination fee 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.
- Review the Dogs Australia Canine Grooming Rules before entering – a clear understanding of the rules is crucial for success.

2. CERTIFICATE FEES (payable upon passing)

CERTIFICATION LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	CERTIFICATE FEE	OPTIONAL ADD-ON
Level C (Novice Level)	Novice level. Demonstrates a solid grasp of essential grooming techniques.	$100	N/A
Level B (Intermediate Level)	Intermediate level. Reflects greater skill and knowledge, including conformation grooming.	$150	Optional Level C Certificate additional $46
Level A (Advanced Level)	Highest level prior to A+ Champion title. Represents mastery of breed-specific grooming and technical expertise.	$300	Optional Level B Certificate additional $46 Optional Level C Certificate additional $46

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 DA certification. This fee is separate from the competition entry fee and must be paid in full for the certificate to be awarded.