

Eligibility and Tournament Information

Eligibility: There will be 3 Divisions, A-Open, B-Intermediate & C-Entry. All will compete together and be judged simultaneously. Separate prizes will be awarded in each division.

Division A-Open is open to all contestants. **Division B - Intermediate** is restricted to groomers who have not competed or who have competed but not had **any** placements in Division A. You may stay in this division until you have won 3 first places or Best All Around Groomer two (2) times or Best Groomed Dog two (2) times in Division B. **Division C - Entry** is restricted to new competitors and those who have competed but not had **any** placements in B or A Division. You may stay in this Division until you have won 3 first places or Best All Around Groomer two (2) times or Best Groomed Dog two (2) times in Division C.

Note: Advancement to a higher division based on 3 first place wins applies only if there were at least four (4) competitors in the class when the 1st place wins were awarded. A Group Win or Placement in a Two or Three Tier competition automatically advances the contestant to the next highest Division from where she/he was eligible prior to the group win or placement. Groomer/handlers, owner/handler/breeders, contest judges, instructors and certifiers must **enter either A - Open or B - Intermediate Division. ELIGIBILITY WILL BE BASED ON LIFETIME RING COMPETITION.**

Entry Fees: A-\$70, B-\$60, C-\$50. per dog includes admission to 2-day trade show. Entry fees must be paid by Oct. 15, 2019.

Classes: There are 5 regular class tournaments in all 3 Divisions- A-Open, B-Intermediate & C-Entry. They are:

Geib Shears Poodle Tournament - For contest purposes, **11 inches and under at the withers will be allotted 1-1/2 hours. Over 11 inches up to & including 17 inches will be allotted 1-3/4 hours. Over 17 inches up to and including 23 inches will be allotted 2 hours. Over 23 inches will be allotted 2-1/4 hours.** Feet On All Poodles Must Be Done Prior to Competition (no extra time will be allowed if feet are not done prior to start of class). All pet and show trims are acceptable provided they respect the breed profile of the Poodle. Small moustache and/or goatee beards are acceptable. Scissored faces, such as teddy bear/bichon heads 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 start of the class.

PetLift Sporting Tournament - Trimmed to acceptable breed standard and breed profile. Pet trims are not permitted. It is permissible for Div. B & C to use clippers, scissors and thinning shears when the bodywork is typically hand stripped and/or carded for the show ring. Hand stripping and carding is encouraged as customary, and adhering to breed profile is mandatory. **Acceptable Breeds : American & English Cocker, English, Gordon, Irish Red, Irish White and Irish Setters, Clumber, Field, Sussex Spaniels, English and Welsh Springer Spaniels. Clip time is 1-3/4 hours and Strip/Card time is 2 Hours for all breeds.**

Groomers Mail Wire Coat Tournament - Trimmed to acceptable breed standard and breed profile. It is permissible for Div. B & C to use clippers, scissors and thinning shears when the bodywork is typically hand stripped and/or carded for the show ring. Hand stripping on Wire Coated breeds is encouraged and adhering to breed profile is mandatory.



Merryfield School All Other Purebreds Tournament - Trimmed to acceptable breed standard and breed profile. Pet trims are not permitted. It is permissible to use clippers, scissors and thinning shears. Adhering to breed profile on all breeds is mandatory. **Acceptable breeds and times... Bedlington 2:00, Bichon Frise 1:45, Black Russian Terrier 2:15, Bouvier 2:15, Irish Water Spaniel 2:00, Kerry Blue 2:00, Portuguese Water Dog 2:00, Soft Coated Wheaten 2:00.**

Kenchii Shears Mixed/Misc. Tournament - Dogs of mixed-breed parentage and any purebred that will be groomed in a style **other than it's breed profile.** Examples: Poodle in a Bedlington, Cocker in a Suburban, Bichon in a Panda/Teddy Bear. Poodles **CANNOT** have face or feet clipped in traditional poodle

Wire Coat Acceptable Breeds/Times:		
	Clip Time	H/S Time
Affenpinscher	1:30	1:45
Airdale	2:00	2:15
Australian Terrier	1:30	1:45
Border Terrier	1:30	1:45
Brussels Griffon	1:30	1:45
Cairn Terrier	1:45	2:00
Dachund Wire	1:30	1:45
Dandie Dinmont	1:45	2:00
Giant Schnauzer	2:00	2:15
Irish Terrier	1:45	2:00
Lakeland Terrier	1:45	2:00
M. Schnauzer	1:30	1:45
Norfolk Terrier	1:30	1:45
Norwich Terrier	1:30	1:45
Scottish Terrier	1:45	2:00
Sealyham Terrier	1:45	2:00
Std. Schnauzer	1:45	2:00
Welsh Terrier	1:45	2:00
West Highland White	1:45	2:00
Wire Fox Terrier	1:45	2:00

Best In Show will be chosen from all 1st place winners in Division A.

Best All Around Groomer eligibility requires entering & competing in at least 3 regular classes including ONE Poodle class. **Best All Around Groomer** award in each Division will be chosen by a point system; 3 points for 1st, 2 points for 2nd, 1 point for 3rd in each class provided there are at least four (4) contestants in the class. If the class has less than four (4), the points awarded will be calculated as follows: Number of entries minus the placement number equals point/points awarded. Points will be totaled and **highest points** will be named Best All Around Groomer of the Division. In the event of a tie, the groomer with the most 1st placements will win. If there is still a tie, the groomer with the most placements will win. If there is still a tie, a point will be assigned for every groomer they have beaten in each class. Highest points will be named Best All Around Groomer of the Division.

General Contest Rules

Attention: Each tournament is limited to 45 combined entries in A-Open, B-Intermediate & C-Entry. Send entries EARLY for guaranteed space.

An employee of a Judge may NOT compete under that Judge.

An employee/rep of a tournament sponsor is not eligible to compete in that particular competition.

Competition dogs must be physically fit for competition. NO AGGRESSIVE Dogs Allowed.

No pre-scissoring or shaping before any class. Evidence of this will merit disqualification.

All dogs entered in competition must have a minimum of six weeks growth of hair. Since coat grows differently on all dogs, acceptable coat length will be defined as follows: **The coat must be sufficient to allow the contestant to make a distinct change in the dog's appearance.** Rolled coats on hand-stripped dogs, as above, there must be a distinct change in the dog's appearance.

Dogs should be free of mats, freshly shampooed and dried, with ears cleaned, toenails clipped prior to the competition.

Dogs can be chalked; hair spray may be used provided it is not overdone. Please use a towel on your table if chalking.

The genital and stomach areas can be pre-trimmed (for sanitary reasons) according to breed standards, as well as the pads under the feet. **No part of toes are to be clipped.** All other trimming shall be done in the ring only. **ALL POODLES MUST HAVE FEET SHAVED PRIOR TO START OF CLASS.**

All dogs must be on leads or in cages. Only dogs participating in the contest and/or other programs are permitted in the hotel and must be crated when left alone in sleeping rooms.

Contestants late for any class **will not** be permitted to compete if the contest has started and will forfeit entry fee.

Contestants must provide their own dog(s), equipment. **Tables provided by PETLIFT.**

A contestant may not display any business establishment in the ring.

No coaching from ringside is allowed. Violators will be disqualified.

No rough handling of animals. Violators will be disqualified.

No visual aids (pictures) are allowed in ring.

Attire: Competitors are expected to dress professionally. Excessive short shorts, cutoffs, miniskirts, tank tops and tee shirts are inappropriate. Shoes must be worn. Flip-flops are not allowed.

After judging of all classes, finalist may freshen up their dogs before they return for final judging, but no additional clipping, scissoring or coat shaping is permitted.

All grooming equipment must be removed from the ring after the class competition unless you are in the next competition.

Classification of breeds determined by AKC breed standards. Purebred dogs not being groomed to AKC standards of appearance will go into the Mixed/Misc. class.

In the event a competitor challenges the eligibility of another competitor verbal protest must be made prior to the start of the class.

Competitors fraudulently entering a class for which they are not eligible will be required to forfeit all titles and return any prize money, prizes, trophies, plaques, ribbons etc. to the Show Management. Groom Team points will be forfeited.

If an issue comes up not covered in the written rules, the show committee will make the final decision.

CONTEST GROOMING TABLES PROVIDED BY PETLIFT

All 1st place winners MUST have win picture taken with Sponsor and Judge. 2nd, 3rd and all competitors desiring photos are encouraged to do so.

Contestants registered to compete MUST compete; otherwise, they will be charged admission for all 2 days of the show.

Each first place regular class winner will be eligible to compete for Best Groomed Dog in B & C Divisions, and Best In Show in Div. A , providing; that the winner returns to the ring at the time the Best Groomed Dog competition is held.

Degree of difficulty plays an important role in a judge/judges decisions. When the allotted class times are up, the judges will examine the dogs by hand and comb through the coat, taking the following into consideration when making their decisions:

Poodles:

1. The suitability of the trim to the dog's conformation.
2. The quality of the clipper work:
 - A. Whether pattern is placed correctly, evenly, & clipped with the appropriate blade, whether clipped lines are definite, straight, neatly beveled where they meet body coat.
 - B. If there is no pattern and the body is clipped overall, whether the groomer has used a blade Complimentary to the coat.
 - C. Whether the feet, face and tail are clipped with the appropriate blade, whether the clipped lines on face are straight and clipper work is smooth with no tufts of hair around the lips and eye corners. Whether feet are clipped clean between toes and pads.
3. The Quality, uniformity and smoothness of the scissoring
 - A. Whether the finish is like that of plush velvet, free of scissor marks.
 - B. Whether legs are scissored evenly & are of sufficient fullness to balance the dog.
 - C. Whether the topknot and tail are properly shaped and in balance to each other.
4. The degree of difficulty of the clip. This does not mean that fancy patterns should take precedence. Overall scissor trims can be as difficult with certain coat textures.
5. The dog's overall finished appearance with emphasis on balance, symmetry and smoothness of finish. The trim should hold together when the comb is passed through the coat.

Terriers, Sporting and All Other Purebreds:

1. The suitability of the trim and how it conforms to the accepted breed standard and profile.
2. The quality of the clipper work: whether the clipped areas have been clipped with the appropriate blade, whether they are neat and smooth, all clipped lines are straight.
3. The quality, uniformity and smoothness of the scissoring and/or thinning.
 - A. On scissored breeds, whether the finish is plush and free of scissor marks, and whether legs are scissored evenly and of sufficient fullness to balance the dog, whether the head is properly trimmed and balanced.
 - B. On breeds with eyebrows or falls and beards, whether the trimming is correct and points up the distinctive features which characterize the breed.
 - C. On breeds with furnishing or feathering, whether they blend smoothly.
4. The dog's finished appearance with emphasis on balance, symmetry and smoothness of finish.

Hand-Stripped Breeds:

1. The suitability of the trim to the accepted breed standard and profile.
2. Whether the body coat has been neatly stripped with appropriate tool or finger and thumb; whether there are visible pink or bald patches afterwards (this is undesirable). The hair must always be removed with the lay of the coat and without pain.
3. If clippers are used to trim the soft coat on the head and ears, the front of the neck or on the insides of the back legs, whether these areas are trimmed neatly and smoothly with the appropriate blade and clipper work is smooth.
4. If scissors or thinning shears are used to trim the furnishings, the quality of work.
5. The dog's overall finished appearance with emphasis on balance, symmetry, smoothness of finish and preservation of the distinctive features that characterize the breed. Whether the dog has a smart, definite outline with furnishings blending in to look natural rather than jutting out.

Mixed-Breeds/Miscellaneous:

1. The originality and execution of the clip and its suitability to the dog's conformation.
2. If clippers are used; the quality of the work, whether the clipped areas look neat and smooth.
3. If scissors or thinning shears are used: the quality, uniformity and smoothness of the work.
4. Dog's overall appearance, emphasis on balance, symmetry and smoothness of finish.

Attention! Contestants wishing to have their contest dog(s) critiqued towards certification testing! You MUST BE PREREGISTERED BY OCT. 15th for certification testing and competition. We will NOT be taking any on site registration for contest certification testing.

Important Notice

**PRIOR TO START
OF COMPETITION:**

AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CLASS THE JUDGE(S) WILL EXAMINE THE DOGS:

- ☆ COMPETITORS WILL BE ASKED IF THERE IS ANYTHING THEY WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE JUDGES ATTENTION.
- ☆ INSUFFICIENT COAT OR OTHER PHYSICAL DEFECTS (SKIN DISEASE) WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
- ☆ BREED AND SIZE WILL BE CHECKED FOR PROPER CLASS ENTRY AND TIME ALLOCATION.
- ☆ IF THE ENTRY IS IN THE INCORRECT CLASS, THE CONTESTANT MAY ENTER THE CORRECT CLASS, PROVIDED IT HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE. IF CORRECT CLASS HAS TAKEN PLACE THE CONTESTANT WILL FORFEIT ENTRY FEE.
- ☆ CONTESTANTS REGISTERED TO COMPETE **MUST** COMPETE; OR THEY WILL BE CHARGED ADMISSION FOR BOTH DAYS OF THE SHOW.
- ☆ COMPETITORS ENTERING 3 OR MORE CLASSES MAY HAVE AN ASSISTANT AT THE SHOW AT NO CHARGE.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The NDGAA has created and maintains a show and contest environment that promotes camaraderie, fun and most of all, a valuable learning experience for competitors and attendees alike. Good sportsmanship is absolutely essential to maintain this environment. Therefore, any competitor that displays unsportsmanlike conduct (as determined by the show committee) inside the ring or witnessed in any public place over the course of the show weekend, shall be subject to the following:

- 1). The contestant will be immediately disqualified from any further competitions for the remainder of the weekend, including the finals and will forfeit all entry fees.
- 2). Any awards and prize money will be immediately returned to the Show Manager and any placements/points will be forfeited.

THIS RULE PERTAINS TO ON SITE ACTIVITIES. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THE SHOW