

# THE SOUTH EAST GROOMING SHOW 2023

## RULES

### GENERAL RULES

- Please do not bring dogs not entered into the competition (except service dogs).
- Stewards are around to help you, so don't be afraid to ask!
- Any aggressive behaviour including foul language used towards the judges, event staff, competitors, spectators, or dogs will lead to disqualification or removal from the show.
- Please clean up after your dog(s) – penalty £100.
- Please do not touch other people's dogs without explicit permission from the owner/handler.
- Do not leave dogs unattended – stewards can look after them during privy breaks.
- We accept no responsibility for loss or damage to your property.

### COMPETITOR RULES

- Competitors must provide their own dog(s).
- Please ensure you have adequate dog grooming insurance.
- All classes will start promptly. Competitors who have not entered the ring 15 minutes before contest start time may not be permitted to compete.
- There will be a 10-minute comfort break for all dogs after one hour has elapsed in the morning and afternoon sessions.
- Dogs must have a minimum of 6 weeks' worth of growth to showcase your skills, with no visible set lines. Judging is based on degree of difficulty and level of work.
- Poodles must have a minimum of 5cm hair growth with no visible set lines. The hair on the muzzle and feet should be clipped prior to the competition.
- There must be a visible difference in the dog from the start to the finish of the class.
- Products may be used but only if they are deemed safe for animal use.
- The use of chalk is allowed, however no trace of it should remain on the judge's hand after judgement has taken place.
- All competitors are ultimately responsible for their own dogs, so please make sure that dogs are kept watered and exercised and don't forget to clean up after your dog!
- We recommend you bring an assistant if you are competing in more than one category. You will be disqualified if your crated dog is being unruly, such as excessive barking and distracting other competitors.
- All grooming techniques are allowed - the chosen technique should suit the type of the dog's coat.
- If the competitor makes clipper burns, nicks or cuts they cannot be placed as a winner.
- We reserve the right to move entries up or down if placed in the wrong category.
- Competitor stewards are around to help you, so don't be afraid to ask.
- For Champion level only: Placement(s) may be withheld if the judge deems a groom to not be of championship level.
- **The judges' decision is final**

## **COMPETITION DOG QUALIFICATION**

- Dogs should be clean, dry, and free of mats and tangles. Nails should be clipped and/or filed, ears clean. Sanitary pads may be clipped prior to competition. All other grooming must take place during contest time frame with exceptions as noted in Poodle & creative.
- Please treat your dogs with respect. If the judges consider a dog is being mishandled, a warning will be given. A second warning will result in disqualification
- Dogs must be of an age appropriate for competition environment. Suggested age is between 1 year and 10 years.
- Must appear healthy, in good condition and free of infectious disease and parasites.
- No pregnant bitches, those that are nursing or bitches on heat.
- Dogs must not show signs of viciousness or aggression
- Dogs must be properly cared for with food, water and exercise while on the show premises
- Dogs must be leashed when not crated or not being groomed

## **CREATIVE RULES**

- Colouring can be done prior to the class but finishing colour and styling must be done during the class
- The dog must be able to move freely whilst wearing their style
- All products used must be non-toxic and skin safe.
- Anyone seen to be using superglue or glue guns or staple guns etc. will be disqualified immediately.
- The use of lightening products is not permitted

## **PROHIBITED IN THE COMPETITION RING**

- Standing on tables or chairs
- Coaching by anyone, at any time during the competition time frame or within the break
- Visual or written instructions with the exception of diagrams for the creative class
- Smoking including vaping
- Alcohol

## **GROOMING EQUIPMENT**

- Please bring your own table and grooming arm as they are not provided
- There are no electrical points available. We advise you bring cordless clippers.
- Competitors must provide all of their own equipment including but not limited to: grooming loops, scissors, clippers, blades, brushes etc.
- Please ensure your equipment is safe and in good working order.
- We accept no responsibility for loss or damage to your property.
- All personal equipment must be removed from the competition ring after each class.
- All grooming tools are permitted such as snap on combs.

### **PROFESSIONAL IMAGE, CONDUCT, SKILL APPLICATION**

- Competitors must maintain a safe styling station at all times Example: Open scissors left on the table for the dog to step on would be considered unsafe styling station
- Competitors must practice kind and safe handling techniques at all times
- Dogs must never be left unattended on the table
- Competitors must apply technical skills with safety
- Nicks, cuts and clipper irritations are considered unsafe technical skill application and will be penalized
- Good sportsmanship must be displayed at all times
- Poor sportsmanship is displayed when a contestant shows disrespect to fellow competitors, judge, contest dog, staff, sponsors and spectators
- Professional conduct is also carried into the care and responsibility of your contest dog and the hotel grounds, rooms and property

### **PREJUDGING**

Judges will evaluate, confirm and note the following:

- Correct class & division
- Sufficient coat growth and evaluate preparation
- Time frame by size, breed or technique
- If pattern is pre-set
- Competitor comments such as, but not limited to: ear infections, missing coat, moles, scars, healing injuries, etc.

### **COMPETITION END**

- Competitors should remove hair, tools and equipment from grooming table.
- A comb should be placed on the table.
- Competitors may comb their dogs after scissors down, prior to and after judging.
- Competitors may use finishing sprays to freshen up their dogs after scissors down, prior to and after judging, but ANY reshaping or styling with hair spray, products or water is prohibited.
- Competitors should stack and present their dog to the judges.

### **JUDGES WILL EVALUATE THE FOLLOWING**

- Overall uniformity of the trim
- Balance, symmetry and style of the trim
- Purebred: adherence to correct breed profile
- Freestyle: ability of groomer to create the best possible profile according to body type, conformation and coat
- Scissoring: plush appearance without scissor marks
- Hand stripping and carding: smooth natural appearance and proper technique
- Clipper lines should be clean and free of irritation
- Edges such as cocker and poodle feet should show neat and tidy bevels
- Difficulty regarding the amount of coat removed, pattern created or followed, coat type, texture, quality and quantity
- Camouflaging conformation faults and accentuating profile attributes