



HOW TO BECOME A GROOMER

The APGA encourages all people wanting to enter the grooming industry to first acquire a base education and hands on training. Researching the skills of your educator is important, your teacher should have proven, standardized skills (ex. certified). Though grooming is an unregulated trade, the teaching of our trade **IS REGULATED** under

the private career colleges act of each province, making it illegal for a groomer to accept money to teach a full trade set of skills (ex. groomer offers to teach you for a certain amount of money).

Because grooming is an unregulated trade, there is no clear path to learn the trade. The two best options are:

1. Going to a quality grooming school.
2. Finding a ground level position (bather, grooming assistant) in a salon, under the supervision of a groomer who demonstrates superior skills.

This trade, like many others, takes several years to become skilled and proficient. It is well worth the time and financial investment to travel to attend a superior school, as you will be better set up to enter the work force. It is also well worth working your way up from a bather position if you can get work in a superior shop under a skilled and patient groomer. This path takes longer and it is generally a paid route. It can be challenging to find a quality grooming salon willing to train you in a paid position. The reason is that until you are proficient, it is costing the shop profit while you learn. When sourcing a shop to work/train in, check groomer listings on certification/association pages such as (APGA, CPPS, IPG, NDGA...)

Please Note: *Grooming certification* is different than receiving a *Certificate of Completion* from a grooming school, where *Grooming Certification* is held to a national, third party standard.