

GENERAL RULES: RMgArizona 2025

***Please read ALL RULES before registering for competitions.**

Registration will open 8am on August 3, 2025. There will be NO REFUNDS after August 15, 2025. Drop Outs will be opened to the waiting list, first come first serve.

Bring your own cordless equipment. Electricity will not be provided in the contest ring.

***You may want to bring your own table for the prep area.**

Plan on arriving to the contest ring one hour before your class begins so you have time for Before Photos with our photographer.

Competitors Meeting: Friday Oct. 31 at 8:00AM at the Competition Main Stage. It is not required, but highly recommended you attend so you can get your questions answered and meet your judges. Help us make the competitions run smoother by attending this meeting.

BREED STANDARD CLASSES & SALON FREESTYLE SHOW STRUCTURE, DIVISIONS AND AWARDS STRUCTURE:

Dual-Division Competition

Division "A" & Division "B" compete separately for titles of first, second and third in their division classes. The first place winner from each Division will compete against all other first place winners from their division for Best in Show. There will be a Best in Show Division "A" winner and a Division "B" winner.

COMPETITION LEVEL DIVISIONS:

GroomTeam Sanctioned Class rules will apply to all levels with the following exception: ONLY Division "B" may use clippers, scissors and thinning shears when bodywork is typically hand stripped and/or carded for show ring in sporting class and wire coat class. A fifteen-minute time reduction will be levied.

DIVISION "A":

Open to all competitors. Competitors who have won two Best in Show or two Best All Around groomer titles, from intermediate division or "B" division at any show OR three group placements from any tiered show, OR three 1st placements from intermediate division at any show MUST enter DIVISION "A".

Recommended for groomers with intermediate to advanced styling skills, previous successful competition experience, and for intermediate to advanced conformation dog show exhibitors and/or certifiers and instructors.

DIVISION "B":

Restricted to competitors who have NOT won two Best in Show or two Best All Around groomer titles, from intermediate division or "B" division at any show OR three group placements from any tiered show, OR three 1st placements from intermediate division at any show, AS WELL AS competitors who have not won a Best in Show or Best All Around title from any division at any show, OR three 1st placements from entry division at any show, OR one group placement from any tiered show. Recommended for groomers who have never competed and/or possess novice-grooming skills. Conformation dog show exhibitors, owners, breeders, handlers who have finished a champion, and/or certifiers and grooming instructors are not permitted to compete in Division "B" and must enter Division "A".

AWARDS:

Both divisions are judged simultaneously. Three placements are awarded in each division. The first place winners from both divisions of each class will go on as Best in Show contenders.

BEST IN SHOW:

Best in Show will be chosen from the 1st place winners from both division A and B from each class: Wire Coat Class, All Other Purebred, Salon Freestyle, and Poodles. The 1st place winners then return with their entry to the Best in Show Awards Presentation at designated time and place. Those winners not present for final Best in Show judging will not be eligible. There will be a Best In show awarded for both Division A and B.

AWARD POLICIES:

Provided sufficient eligible competitors are entered, 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements must be awarded in that order. Awards will not be withheld unless there is a specific disqualifying factor as described in Warnings and

Disqualifications.

Refer to Procedures and Protocols for other important information.

Procedures, Policies and Protocols RMgX 2025

CHECK IN PROCEDURES:

- Contestants must pick up their registration packet at the show registration desk upon arrival to the show.
- Competition check-in station opens 1 hour prior to contest start time.
- Contestant must bring their contest entry ticket, signed acceptance of the rules, competition dog, grooming table and equipment to contest check in station prior to entering the ring. (Contestants should bring an assistant with them to assist in setting up their table/ holding their dog prior to competition start. No Extra time will be allotted for table set up.)
- Contestants will have pre-contest photos taken and will be assigned a stage space to set up their table in.
- Check in station closes 15 minutes prior to competition start time.

- Contestants should arrive with their dog at check in station 45 to 60 minutes prior to competition start time.
- Contestants who have not checked in 15 minutes before contest start time will not be permitted to compete.

COMPETITION DOG QUALIFICATION:

- Dogs should be clean, dry, and free of mats and tangles. Nails should be clipped and/or filed, ears clean. Sanitary and pads may be clipped prior to competition. Poodles should have their feet pre-shaved, added time will not be allotted for shaving feet. Poodle faces must be shaved during the competition time frame. Poodle faces may be shaved up to 2 weeks prior to competition for cleanliness. All other grooming must take place during contest time frame with the exception of Pre-Groomed Creative Runway.
- 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
- Must not show obvious signs of pregnancy or nursing
- Must not show signs of viciousness or aggression
- Must NEVER be left unattended
- Must be properly cared for with food, water and exercise while on the show premises
- Must be leashed when not crated or not being groomed
- Must follow applicable vaccination regulations for city, county, state and country hosting the competition

PREJUDGING DOCUMENTATION AND ENTRY CONFIRMATION:

- Judge will evaluate, confirm and note the following: • Correct class
- Sufficient coat growth (average of 4-6 weeks of growth) and evaluate preparation
- Time frame by size, breed or technique
- Correct division
- If pattern is pre-set
- Contestant comments such as, but not limited to: ear infections, missing coat, moles, scars, healing injuries, etc.

PRODUCT APPLICATIONS:

- Decorative objects such as bows, and scarves are not permitted in regular purebred classes. • Coloring, other than to enhance natural coat color of the dog is prohibited in purebred classes. • Hair extensions that are the same coat color of the dog, are permitted and if used, must be applied during the competition time frame.
- Products such as hair sprays and styling gels may be applied during the competition time frame. Spray is limited to "freshening up" once time is called. Re-shaping such as that done on Kerry Blue jacket, shaping or patting coat into place utilizing water or product or shaping a show Poodle headpiece may not be done once time is called. Hair spray is prohibited on poodle tie-ups prior to competition time frame and after time is called.

- Chalk, such as terrier chalk may be applied prior to or during the competition time frame to aid in hand stripping or enhance coat color. It is prohibited to apply after time is called.
- Salon freestyle may apply up to two bows.
- Small amounts of color (1 inch or less) may be added and is limited to paws, ears, tail and/or cheeks.

COMPETITION END:

- Contestants should remove hair, tools and equipment from the grooming table.
- A comb should be placed on the table.
- Contestants may comb their dogs after scissors down, prior to and after judging.
- Contestants 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.
- Contestants 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

POST CONTEST PHOTOS:

- Post contest photos will be taken after technical evaluation has been completed.
- The contestant should take their number and dog to the photo station and then return to their table and await further instructions.

POLICIES STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE CONTEST RING:

- Cell phones, radios and headsets
- Standing on tables or chairs
- Beverages NOT in spill proof containers
- Coaching by anyone, at any time during the competition time frame or Potty Break
- Visual or written instructions
- Smoking, Flame devices
- Hair dryers
- Holding crates
- No open toed shoes

GROOMING EQUIPMENT:

- Contestants must provide all of their own equipment including but not limited to: grooming loops, scissors, clippers, blades, brushes etc.
- All personal equipment must be removed immediately from the arena after each class.
- All grooming tools are permitted such as snap on combs
- Flat irons are permitted

PROFESSIONAL IMAGE, CONDUCT, SKILL APPLICATION:

- Appropriate grooming attire and shoes should be worn at all times
- Open toe shoes are not permitted
- Contestants determined to be dressed inappropriately will not be permitted to compete
- Professional manner and attitude must be maintained at all times
- Contestants 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
- Contestants must practice kind and safe handling techniques at all times
- Dogs must never be left unattended
- Contestants 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

DISQUALIFICATIONS & WARNINGS :

- Contestants may receive warnings or notification of disqualification for rule infractions as described in rules.
 - Judging panel will determine if rule infraction(s) result in disqualification.
 - Judging panel will determine if injury to contest dog result in disqualification depending upon severity and cause.
 - Awards will not be withheld unless the judging panel determines there is a disqualifying factor.
- Clarification of Any issues that may arise that are not covered by the rules will be determined by the judging panel and/or show management.

Conflict of Interest Policy

This policy helps to establish the highest standards in the pet styling profession as stated in the Code of Conduct and guidelines.

Board Members, Officers, and Official Representatives are prohibited from competing in Classes or judging Division "A" classes.

1. Competitors will not be eligible compete under the following conditions:

- b. Entry provided by your judge(s).
- c. Entry prepared by any judge(s) throughout the duration of the show.
- d. Familial relationship with any judge(s) assigned during the timeframe(s) of that class(es).
- e. Personal Mentoring Relationship with judge(s) assigned during the timeframe(s) of that class(es). (Excluding post contest critiques).
 - Private or semi-private instruction (less than six attendees) within four months of competition.
 - Instructor/Student/Apprentice within the last six months.
- f. Vested business relationship, defined as an involvement having the element of personal gain, within the last twelve months including but not limited to:
 - Employee/Employer/Subcontractor
 - Consulting
 - Professional Handling or Handling Assistant • Business Partnership or Venture

2. Show Organizers must adhere to the following conflict of interest policies. Show management:

a. May not influence or advise contest placements. b. May not utilize the services of judges who:

- Are employees/employers (free-lance authors/sub-contractors are exempt).
- Are directly involved with the planning and production of the contest.
- Are relatives of show management.
- Have a business ownership/partnership with show management.
- Use professional handler services for/with show management.

3. Although judge/competitor conflicts of interest are ultimately the competitor's responsibility, it is in the best interest of show management to hire judges that have retired from the competition ring. Show Management should prohibit judges from:

- a. Judging their students, relatives, or employees/employers.
- b. Judging contestants with whom they have a vested business relationship.
- c. Providing contest dogs to contestants in a class that they are judging.
- d. Personally assisting a competitor with any dog entry preparation for the show duration.

The Rocky Mountain Groom Expo has the responsibility to quickly address issues directly related to the above policies. To resolve issues, immediately submit a Grievance Form for the perceived infraction to the attention of the Rocky Mountain Groom Expo. All other concerns should be brought to the attention of the Rocky Mountain Groom Expo director. Contact information can be found on the RMgX website.

REMEMBER:

POLICIES STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE CONTEST RING:

- NO Cell phones, radios and headsets, or earbuds
- NO Standing on tables or chairs
- NO Beverages NOT in spill proof containers
- NO Coaching by anyone, at any time during the competition time frame or Potty Break
- NO Visual or written instructions
- NO Smoking, Flame devices
- NO Hair dryers
- NO Holding crates
- NO open toed shoes

Violation of these rules WILL RESULT in DISQUALIFICATION

*You will find a copy of the Code of Conduct in your welcome packet.
This MUST BE signed and turned into the Ring Steward before you will be permitted entry into the contest ring.

Contestant Code of Conduct RMgX 2024

The Rocky Mountain Groom Expo code of conduct establishes expectations for professional behavior and actions of all Rocky Mountain Groom Expo Contestants. Adhering to these policies protects the reputation and perception of groomers on an individual level as well as the entire organization.

As a contestant of the Rocky Mountain Groom Expo, I promise to:

- ~ aspire to the highest professional standards
- ~ treat all team members and industry professionals with respect, honesty, and kindness
- ~ treat all pets with kindness, patience, and respect and provide for their health and safety while they are entrusted to
my care
- ~ continue to pursue education and skill development
- ~ encourage unity among pet stylists by promoting professionalism, the highest ethical standards, education, and
creativity
- ~ exhibit conduct befitting these standards in my actions, whether it be in writing, in person, or through
online
communications
- ~ discourage unprofessional behavior toward others in my industry community Adhere to the Standards
of Conduct
and Sportsmanship Rules

I understand that failure to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** may result in the elimination of honors and privileges awarded by the Rocky Mountain Groom Expo.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Extreme Creative Rules

This is a Pre-Groomed contest

Open to any purebred or mixed breed dog.

The Creative Styling Contest is an exhibition of colorfully staged, uniquely presented, and exquisitely groomed dogs using props and music for the presentation.

The prep area will be open for Creative Contestants on Sunday Nov. 2 beginning at 9:30am.

You may use the electrical in that room for curling irons and small appliances.

At 1:00pm you or your assistant may set up your presentation area in the Main Stage area. Your set up area is 5'x5'. Exhibits exceeding 5'x5' will be disqualified.

All entries in this class must be completely groomed and ready for presentation at 1:30pm.

Competitors must title their designs. If desired, music may be used during the presentation. Music used for presentation is the sole responsibility of the competitor. DVD and Video presentations are not permitted.

Products, Decorative Objects, Color

- All products, decorative objects, coat coloring and applications must be safe for the dog and stylist
- Costumes and ornament applications to the dog must not hinder the dog's ability to move or impair movement of ears, legs or tail
- Costumes and/or decorations must be easily removable for judge inspection
- Glues should be non-toxic and water-soluble
- Type to enter text
- Use of duct tape, carpet tape or any other substance that pulls on the skin or hair to remove, is prohibited
- Large or heavy objects placed on the dog are prohibited

Judging Considerations Technical Finish

- Precision and sharpness of the clipper lines
- Quality of scissor finish
- Overall decorative application
- Overall color application, depth of color, separation of color and blending

Profile

- Concept easily recognizable
- Intricacy balance
- Originality of design
- Original concept for previously executed design
- Unique use of color, decorations or applications

Difficulty

- Intricacy of design and color application
- Color application prior to and during competition (in-ring competition)
- Overall amount of work completed during contest time frame (in-ring competition)

Final Presentation

- Not to exceed 5'x5' space
- Maximum of 2 assistants may enter the arena for prop set up
- Up to three persons may assist in the presentation on stage and three off stage
- Contestants have a maximum of two minutes for their presentation
- Presentation may engage the audience
- Lights cannot be dimmed during performance.
- Smoke, confetti, streamers or explosive items are strictly prohibited

Awards

Judging panel will choose 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements

Peoples' Choice Award

- One winner
- Award chosen by audience applause and determined by judges

REMEMBER:

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- NO Cell phones, radios and headsets, or earbuds
- NO Standing on tables or chairs
- NO Beverages NOT in spill proof containers
- NO Coaching by anyone, at any time during the competition time frame or Potty Break
- NO Visual or written instructions
- NO Smoking, Flame devices
- NO Hair dryers
- NO Holding crates
- NO open toed shoes

Violation of these rules WILL RESULT in DISQUALIFICATION

Dynamic Duo Rules

Dual Divisions A or B; If the Team consists of a Division A-level competitor with a Division B-level competitor, the team will compete in Division A.

See definitions of Divisions A and B in the General Rules, Page 1.

Two Groomers, One Dog!

This is a "Just for Fun-zies Competition," Meant for much laughter and enjoyment!

You may even groom with a Theme and costumes!

Open to all breeds and mixes.

Team Grooming Procedure:

Only one competitor may actively groom the dog at any given time. The non-grooming team member must refrain from touching the dog, grooming tools, or workstation during this time period.

At the discretion of the judging panel, the command "Switch" may be called at any moment. Upon this cue, competitors must promptly exchange positions with the inactive groomer, assuming the active grooming role. Compliance with the "Switch" command must be immediate and without hesitation.

Bribery IS ALLOWED. Contestants should come prepared to "Bribe" the judges with goodies!

No open alcohol is allowed, but sealed bottles are permitted. Research your judge and find out their favorite things and try to influence their choice in placement.

The audience will also be judging, so consider winning the audience over with Bribery and Compliments! Prizes for First, Second, Third, and People's Choice in each division.

Check in at 8:00 AM, Pre-Judge at 8:30 AM (bribery may begin),

Contest starts at 9:00 AM, Awards at 11:00 AM

Product application:

- No more than two (2) bows are permitted
- Colored hair extensions are permitted
- Small amounts of color, (1 inch or less) is limited to paws, ears, tail and/or cheeks

Judging Considerations:

- Balance, symmetry and style
- Ability of groomer to create the best possible profile according the dog's body type, coat and structure
- Scissoring: plush appearance without scissoring marks
- Hand stripping and carding: smooth natural appearance and proper technique
- Clipper lines: clean and free of irritation
- Difficulty: amount of coat removed, pattern created or followed, coat type, texture, quality and quantity Time Frame
- 17" and under - One Hour
- Over 17" - 90 Minutes

Limited to 20 Tables

Salon Freestyle Rules for RMgX Arizona

Acceptable breeds:

Open to ALL BREEDS AND MIXES

- Any mixed breed of dog
- Any purebred CLEARLY NOT groomed to the breed profile style
> Examples: Cocker in as sporting trim with scissored legs, ShihTzu in a puppy trim, Poodle in a Bedlington trim, Old English Sheepdog in a teddy bear

- Asian Fusion styles
- Poodle face and/or feet may not be shaved

Product application:

- No more than two (2) bows are permitted
- Colored hair extensions are permitted
- Small amounts of color, (1 inch or less) is limited to paws, ears, tail and/or cheeks

Judging Considerations:

- Balance, symmetry and style
- Ability of groomer to create the best possible profile according to the dog's body type, coat and structure
- Scissoring: plush appearance without scissoring marks
- Hand stripping and carding: smooth natural appearance and proper technique
- Clipper lines: clean and free of irritation
- Difficulty: amount of coat removed, pattern created or followed, coat type, texture, quality and quantity

Time Frame

- 17" and under - 1:45
- Over 17" - 2:00

Placement for Best in Show:

- The first place winner is eligible to compete in Best in Show

REMEMBER:

POLICIES STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE CONTEST RING:

- NO Cell phones, radios and headsets, or earbuds
- NO Standing on tables or chairs
- NO Beverages NOT in spill proof containers
- NO Coaching by anyone, at any time during the competition time frame or Potty Break
- NO Visual or written instructions
- NO Smoking, Flame devices
- NO Hair dryers
- NO Holding crates
- NO open toed shoes

**Violation of these rules WILL RESULT in
DISQUALIFICATION**

Model Dog Contest

This is a Pre-Groomed Contest

Two Divisions: A or B See Page 1 for definition.

Rules:

Model dogs must be purchased by competitors before the show. You may enter as many model dogs as you like in the various categories.

You may deliver and set up your model dogs starting Friday at 8:00am. Deliver dogs to the Judge at the Main Stage. Judging will begin at 9am

****No late entries will be accepted.**

Fill out an Entry Form and leave it with your Model Dog.

Model dogs must be fully groomed into a Freestyle style, Purebred Profile or Creative Style. The Model Dog must be newly created for this show, it can not have been previously entered in any contest.

Judging will begin at 9am and winners announced at 11:30am.

The model dog awards will be at 11:30am at the Main Stage.

Judge will place First, Second, Third for Awards for each category in each division.

Poodle Rules for RMgArizona

Acceptable coat growth for all competitors in Rocky Mountain Groom Expo;

It is the responsibility of the show promoter and/or their designated judges to determine adequate coat growth.

Acceptable breeds: All sizes, natural colors of purebred Poodles.

- This class may be split into two separate classes as follows: 17" and under, Over 17".
- 11" and under – 1:30 (One hour & thirty minutes)
- Over 11" up to and including 17" – 1:45 (one hour and forty-five minutes)
- Over 17" up to and including 23" – 2:00 (Two hours)
- Over 23" – 2:15 (Two hours and fifteen minutes)

When splitting the Poodle class the following stipulations apply:

A competition must take place between the three finalists from each of the two Open Division Poodle classes to determine the placements of the combined Poodle class, for a final 1st, 2nd and 3rd for all Open Division Poodles.

POODLE STYLING: ALL PET AND SHOW POODLE STYLES ARE ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED THEY RESPECT THE BREED PROFILE OF THE POODLE.

- Feet must be shaved
- Feet may be shaved prior to competition start time. No extra time will be permitted if not completed prior to the class start.
- Face must be shaved during competition time frame.
- Small mustache or goatee are permitted
- Scissored face styles such as a Bichon or scissored type face 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 the start of the class

Sporting Rules for RMgArizona

Acceptable breeds Open Division: Spaniels and Setters (see specific breed list.)

Styling: Must be groomed to breed profile as presented in the conformation show ring.

Time frame: 2 hours

All Wire Coated Pure Breeds Rules for RMgArizona

Acceptable breeds, Open Division: Pure breeds with wire coat types that are hand stripped. (See specific breed list.)

Styling: Must be groomed to breed profile as presented in the conformation show ring.

Time Frames: See specific breed List.

All Other Purebreds Rules for RMgArizona

Acceptable breeds, Open Division: See specific breed list.

Styling: Must be groomed to breed profile as presented in the conformation show ring.

Time Frames: See specific breed list.

Breed Competition RMgArizona

Breeds by Class

Time Allowances:

Poodles

11" and Under	1:30
Over 11" up to and including 17"	1:45
Over 17" up to and including 23"	2:00
Over 23"	2:15

Other Purebred Scissoring

Bedlington Terrier	2:00
Bichon Frise	2:00
Black Russian Terrier	2:15
Bouvier des Flanders	2:15
Irish Water Spaniel	2:00
Kerry Blue Terrier	2:00
Portuguese Water Dog	2:00
Soft Coated Wheaton	2:00

Wire Coats - Handstrips

Affenpinscher	1:45
Airedale	2:15
Australian Terrier	2:00
Border Terrier	1:45
Brussels Griffon	1:45
Cairn Terrier	2:00
Dachshund Wire (Miniature)	1:45
Dachshund Wire (Standard)	2:00
Dandie Dinmont	2:00
Giant Schnauzer	2:15
Irish Terrier	2:00
Lakeland Terrier	2:00
Miniature Schnauzer	2:00
Norfolk Terrier	1:45
Norwich Terrier	1:45
Sealyham Terrier	2:00
Standard Schnauzer	2:00
Welsh Terrier	2:00
West Highland White Terrier	2:00
Wire Fox Terrier	2:00

Setter and Spaniels

Clumber Spaniel	2:00
American Cocker Spaniel	2:00
English Cocker Spaniel	2:00
English Setter	2:00
English Springer Spaniel	2:00
Field Spaniel	2:00
Gordon Setter	2:00
Irish Red and White	2:00
Irish Setter	2:00
Sussex Spaniel	2:00
Welsh Springer Spaniel	2:00

— HOWL-O-WEEN RULES —

The Howl-O-Ween Contest is for children ages 0-18, and adults 18+. Individuals may be accompanied by their dogs in costume as well, as long as they are well behaved. All costume contestants will need to arrive by 4:30pm, at the Mesa Convention Center on Friday October 31st.

Both adults and children will be judged on:

- Effort and craftsmanship
- Theme and presentation
- Creativity and originality
- Overall Impression

Halloween Contest Rules:

- No racist costumes. This includes black face, racially insensitive or offensive symbols. Hate related content will not be tolerated.
- No nudity, this is a family friendly event
- No weapons or sharp props. All items must be appropriately peace tied and checked
- Must participate in the Costume Parade
- Must register prior to October 1, 2025. Registration is free.
- Must have a valid ticket for entry at Rocky Mountain Groom Arizona

At 5:00pm, there will be a costume parade in which all individuals will have an opportunity to theatrically present their costumes, to both the community and the judges. Vendors may also participate in decorating their booths that day, and trick-or-treating will be available starting at 4:30pm. We encourage individuals to arrive at this time, so that everyone gets a full opportunity to appreciate the costumes and creativity.

FOR QUESTIONS: AZGROOMERSGUILD@GMAIL.COM