

## GUIDELINE FOR LICENSED DOG GROOMER'S ASSISTANT (8801)

The following information is a guideline to help candidates understand the points the examiners will be observing in the practical test.

- Good planning for the practical examination is important. The search for suitable dogs can take time. Choose dogs on which you can demonstrate your best work. Avoid where possible using dogs with eye, ear or skin problems or have these corrected prior to the examination. The examiners will note your choice of dog as being in a suitable condition and of sound temperament. Should you have an unavoidable condition or problem with your dog always point this out to the examiners before each relevant component. Animals must have at least six weeks growth of hair.
- The examiners will watch how you handle and control your dog and see that you move the animal's joints correctly, that you work gently and with care and talk to your dog. How you handle yourself and your tools will be noted.
- When planning for your examination it is important to note the time it takes to carry out each stage of your work.
- Your examiners will understand if you are a little nervous and will try to reassure you.

### PRACTICAL TEST 1: MINIATURE POODLE OR BICHON

With at least six weeks growth of coat

Time allowed: 1 hour, 30 minutes

1. **NAILS:** Starting at the rear foot, cut the toe nails with the nail clipper making certain that you hold the cuticle firmly and only cut the tips of the nails to avoid the quick.
2. **EARS:** Apply ear powder to the ear. Use your fingers to pluck hair from the ear canal if necessary. Thoroughly clean the ear with cotton balls which have been dipped in ear cleaner. Dry ears thoroughly.
3. **PADS:** With a #30 blade on your clipper, and starting with the rear feet, remove the hair from between the pads.
4. **BRUSH:** Brush to remove any dead matted hair.
5. **COMB:** With a combination comb, comb through the entire coat.
6. **BATH:** With the appropriate shampoo, shampoo the entire coat. Be sure to put mineral oil in the eyes so that burning and sensitivity is not created. Express the anal glands. While bathing the dog, remove all drainage from the eyes as well as clean any feces from the bum area. Apply creme rinse, rub thoroughly through the coat and rinse with water until all residue is removed from the coat.
7. **DRY:** Fluff dry the dog and re-comb to ensure that all dead coat is removed.

**On completion the examiners will look at the thoroughness of your preparation work and drying skills.**

## **PRACTICAL TEST 2: THE NATURAL COATED DOG**

With at least eight weeks growth of coat / Mixed breeds are also acceptable

Time allowed: 1 hour, 30 minutes

1. **NAILS:** Starting at the rear foot, cut the toe nails with the nail clipper making certain that you hold the cuticle firmly and only cut the tips of the nails to avoid the quick.
2. **EARS:** Thoroughly clean the ear with cotton balls which have been dipped in ear cleaner. Dry ears thoroughly.
3. **PADS:** With a #30 blade on your clipper, and starting with the rear feet, remove the hair from between the pads.
4. **BRUSH:** Brush through the entire coat to remove any dead hair and heavy undercoat.
5. **BATH:** With the appropriate shampoo, shampoo the entire coat. Be sure to put mineral oil in the eyes so that burning and sensitivity is not created. Express the anal glands. While bathing the dog, remove all drainage from the eyes as well as clean any feces from the bum area. Apply creme rinse, rub thoroughly through the coat and rinse with water until all residue is removed from the coat.
6. **DRY:** Fluff dry the dog and re-comb to ensure that all dead coat is removed.

**On completion the examiners will look at the thoroughness of your preparation work and drying skills.**