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GroomTeam USA Mission Statement

To utilize the organization as a vehicle to encourage continued education, growth, pride and the competitive spirit within the pet styling industry.

Belgium Bound



Irina Pinkusevich, Lindsey Dicken, Michell Evans, Olga Zabelinskaya, and Jennifer Lee make up the 2011 Traveling team. They will represent the United States at the World Grooming Championships in September in Kortrijk, Belgium.

In Preparation for Competition Success

By Karla Addington-Smith NCMG

Grooming is a beautiful thing, a true art form. Watching a skilled groomer interact with his or her charge is akin to watching a dancer sculpt a masterpiece. The movements around the table, the anticipation, the trust and cooperation... the process is really very intimate. As a grooming contest judge for the past twenty years, experiencing this process, the dance, and the artistry, coming together in the competition ring, by the most talented among us, has been especially enjoyable.

Every contestant knows that to win in the ring, you must be skilled in shaping, sculpting and styling of the dog's coat, that you must make that dog, at that moment, the best representation of his breed. The process requires skilled use of clippers, scissors, thinning shears, carding and stripping tools. But, as a painter would prime his canvas or sculptor knead her clay, the dog's coat must be thoroughly and properly prepared to receive the artistry of grooming.

(continued on page 6)



Intergroom 2011

Board of Directors

Marea Tully
Teresa Dreese
Suesan Watson

Team Coordinator

Cheryl Purcell

Kendra Otto
Secretary

Donna Zikes
Treasurer

Michelle Evans
Team Liason

Chuck Simmons
Public Relations Director

Kathleen Putman
Newsletter Editor

Ryan Walsh
Webmaster

Intergroom is the busiest show for GroomTeam USA. There is the Board of Directors meeting, the General Meeting, Top Ten & Traveling Team photo shoots, the presentations, a fundraising dinner and the auction just to name the highlights. Everyone was excited about the changes that the show management made to the schedule this year and looked forward to the weekend.

The Board, the officers and the coordinator started on Thursday with their meeting that finished up on Friday afternoon. The General meeting, which is open to everyone, was held on Friday evening. GroomTeam reviews business discussed during the board meeting, to keep everyone updated. A few of the highlights of that meeting were introducing some new faces to Groomteam. Lisa Leady's term as a board member ended last December and her sister Suesan Watson replaced her on the board. GroomTeam also has a new secretary, Kendra Otto and a new coordinator, Cheryl Purcell. The board is thrilled to have Kendra & Cheryl onboard; they will be a huge asset to GroomTeam. The meeting minutes are available for review on www.groomteamusa.com.



GroomTeam USA, Inc.

Newsletter Mailing Address:

6114 Misty Creek Dr.
Loveland OH 45140

After competing all day, walking dogs and grabbing a quick bite to eat the 2010 Top Ten and the 2011 Traveling Team met at Ren's Animal Photography to have pictures taken, on Saturday night. After braving the storms, everyone changed into their smocks, donated by Jodi Murphy and had some fun while getting their pictures taken.

Website: www.groomteamusa.com
E-mail: groomteamusa@aol.com

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Sunday evening after the Best in show awards, Groomteam USA made their presentations to Thank Christine DiFilippo; introduce the board, officers, coordinator and team liaison. They also took a moment to introduce and thank the Premium sponsors: Andis, Wahl, Lambert Kay, Shark Fin shears, 44/20 Shears and Groomers Helper and all the other vendors that donate to Groomteam. The highlight was honoring the Top Ten Groomers of 2010: Irina Pinkusevich, Lindsey Dicken, Michell Evans, Olga Zabelinskaya, Jennifer Lee, Kendra Otto, Amy Triezenberg, Jeri Hoppe, Michelle Breen and Kelly Knight. Groomteam gives each groomer a denim jacket the first time they make the top ten and this year three new jackets were presented to Jennifer Lee, Jeri Hoppe and Kelly Knight. The entire team also received a crystal medallion, a 2010 pin, a certificate and a pair of shears donated by 44/20 Shear Company. The top five point holders from 2009-2010 were also recognized. These girls make up the 2011 Traveling team, Irina Pinkusevich, Lindsey Dicken, Michell Evans, Olga Zabelinskaya, and Jennifer Lee and will represent the United States at the World Grooming Championships in September in Kortrijk, Belgium.



Back Row: Olga Zabelinskaya, Michell Evans, Irina Pinkusevich, Lindsay Dicken, Kendra Otto, Jeri Hoppe Front Row: Jennifer Lee, Michelle Breen, Kelly Knoght, Amy Trezenberg

On Sunday evening Chuck Simons, of Groomer's Helper and newly appointed Groomteam's Public Relations Director, hosted a gala fundraising dinner for Groomteam USA. The dinner was to help raise money for Groomteam but also launched the Groomy awards. The Groomys were conceived when Chuck found out that the Cardinal Crystal Awards were moving to Las Vegas and would no longer be held at Intergroom. The Groomys award professionals in the industry who have gone above and beyond to make contributions to the industry. A DJ and cash bar followed dinner and awards. The evening was a smashing success and a good time had by all who attended.

Monday afternoon after the end of the show Groomteam held an auction. This was Cheryl Purcell's chance to get her feet wet as the new Groomteam USA coordinator and run her first auction. She had help from Chuck Simons, the auctioneer and other volunteers. All of the items in the auction were donated by vendors at the show. The money raised helps support the Traveling team and goes toward the Groomteam scholarship fund. Thanks to everyone the donated items and helped Cheryl.

Groomteam looks forward to Intergroom every year to honor the best in the industry and we hope to see all of you at Intergroom in 2012.

Current Standings

Here are the GroomTeam USA point standings for 2011, after Atlanta Pet Fair, Intergroom and Colorado Groomfest

1. Jennifer Lee	48
2. Michelle Evans	34
3. Irina Pinkusevich	24
4. Lindsey Dicken	23
5. Tammy Siert	14
6. Jeri Hoppe	13
7. Michelle Breen	12
Amy Triezenberg	12
9. Olga Zabelinskaya	11
Julie Pantages	11

From The Editor's Desk . . .

Since this is my first issue of the GroomTeam USA Newsletter, perhaps I should introduce myself, Kathleen Putman. I was a member of GroomTeam USA in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996 and 1997. I was known best for my Terriers and Sporting Dogs and for my entries in Creative Styling. The highlight of my competitive career was when I won both Best In Show (with my hand stripped Wire Fox Terrier) and First in Creative at the US Pet Pro Classic in 1997. I retired from competition later that year. I then became a respected speaker and judge, as well as an ISCC Certifier and Consultant.

In 2003, I was hit by a car while riding my bicycle to my job as a mobile pet stylist. My injuries were severe — I was paralyzed and the doctors wondered if I would even survive. The grooming industry was very good to me and held many fundraisers to help with the expenses that my medical insurance didn't cover. Not only did I survive, I was blessed with an amazing recovery. Today I can walk with the assistance of a cane and I have returned to grooming on a part time basis for the past year and a half. Last year, I even came out of retirement to compete on a limited basis in the Abstract Design and Creative classes last year.

I look forward to working with the GroomTeam USA Newsletter. If anyone has something to contribute for future issues, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ad Rates

Inside Front Cover, full page - \$425

Inside Back Cover, full page - \$350

Full page -- \$350

Half page -- \$200

Quarter page -- \$125

For advertising in the December issue of the GroomTeam Newsletter, contact Kathleen Putman at kputman@cinci.rr.com. Deadline for advertising copy is November 1. Payment is due at the time of billing or by November 25, whichever comes first.

GroomTeam USA Memorial Trophies

The Lynne Carver Memorial Trophy is awarded to the competitive groomer that accumulates the highest number of "Best All Around Groomer" points in a given year according to the GroomTeam USA Point Tabulation rules. Should there be a tie in the number of points earned, the awarding committee will take into consideration how many "Best All Around Groomer" awards each competitor won throughout the year. This award honors one of our own, Lynne Carver, who retired from active competition in 1992 with over 300 awards in American and International competition. She proceeded to give her time and effort to the organization that she so dearly loved: GroomTeam USA. Lynne actively served on the Executive Board of Directors until her passing in 2003.

The Lynne Carver Memorial Trophy was presented to Irina Pinkusevich and Lindsey Dicken at the Atlanta Pet Fair in March. They were tied in both points and the number of Best All Around Groomer wins in 2010.

Also in Atlanta, the Board of Directors created a new award honoring Liz Paul, who was a top ranked GroomTeam USA stylist. Liz was in the Top Ten nearly every year from its inception in 1988, as part of the infamous hand-picked "Dream Team", until 2004. The three years that Liz was not ranked was because she did not compete. Over the course of her career, Liz managed to win the Best Groomed Dog in Show and the Best All Around Groomer awards at every major show in the US. This trophy is awarded to the competitive groomer that accumulates the most "Best in Show" wins in a given year according to the GroomTeam USA Point Tabulation rules. Should there be a tie in the number of wins, the Board of directors will take into consideration how many "Best in Show" points each competitor has earned throughout the year. It will be presented at the All American Grooming Show in August.

2011 Scholarship Awards

GroomTeam USA, Inc. is pleased to announce the Lonnie Lange Memorial Scholarship recipients for 2011.

Level 1 will provide two recipients with \$1000 in college money. These funds may be used toward college education in any field and will be paid directly to the school. The only stipulation is that the applicant must be the child, stepchild or grandchild of a bona fide, professional groomer. No other students may apply. This is strictly for the families of groomers! This year's Level 1 winners are Katelyn Thornton from North Richland Hills, TX and Alexandra Siroky from Holland, MI.

Level 2 is open to any and all applicants, and provides one recipient with a full scholarship to their choice of one of a selected group of nationally acclaimed grooming schools approved by GroomTeam USA, Inc. GroomTeam USA, Inc. will also provide up to a maximum of \$1000 toward the purchase of the standard grooming tool kit available through the selected school. The participating schools include Maser's Academy of Fine Grooming (Kenmore, WA), Merryfield School of Pet Grooming (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Nanhall School of Dog Grooming (Greensboro, NC), Paragon School of Pet Grooming (Jenison, MI) and the Pennsylvania Academy of Pet Grooming (Indiana, PA). Our grooming scholarship winner is Anna Berning from Muskogen, who will be attending Paragon School.

The Lonnie Lange Memorial Scholarship Fund is intended to help the families of hard working pet stylists, like you. It is made possible through the generous contributions of our Premium Sponsors, Andis, Wahl, 4420 Shears and Groomers Helper, as well as the continued support of the numerous manufactures, distributors and groomers.

People sometimes ask why doesn't GroomTeam USA have a dues paying membership where the members get a vote?

This is because the corporation was set up originally as a "directorship" without a voting membership. While the subject of this has been brought up a number of times, it stayed as a directorship of three to be able to expedite changes within the organization without the time-consuming labor of bringing things to a "membership" vote. Jerry Schinberg, Lynne Carver and Dina Perry were the ones who originally set it up this way and the current board has to agree that it works. A membership like GroomTeam USA might have a tendency to vote on issues emotionally and with personal agendas in mind. This could be damaging to the infrastructure of the organization that wishes to remain neutral, or at least should be.

The Board of Directors is now accepting nominations for a new board member starting in January 2012. This is a 3 year committment, which includes four meetings a year: Atlanta, Intergroom, Chicago and the annual board meeting which is held the first weekend in December.

Applications should be submitted to:

**GroomTeam USA Board of Directors
20710 Horse Hame Hollow
Estero, Fl. 33928**

In Preparation for Competition Success

(continued from page 1)

To achieve a beautifully executed trim, a comb is the professional groomer's most important tool. Choosing the correct comb for the coat type and length is the first step in preparation for success. Generally, an eight to ten inch comb will allow enough length to keep hands out of the coat. Very rarely is a handled comb the best choice for body work. For best results and ease of use, a comb should possess narrow, smooth, and tapered tines of at least 1 1/8" in length for optimum coat penetration. Finely spaced tines will push a dense coat, rather than penetrate. Shorter tines may not reach deeply enough into longer length coats to detect matting or to fluff for scissoring. On occasion during judging, I'll reach to pick up the contestant's comb, only to find a small, handled tool, packed full of fat, closely spaced ?" tines... sometimes bent and missing teeth... and I am sad to discover that they may never use those expensive shears successfully as long as they are using that comb.

In coat preparation, a comb is used to test what you have brushed. After using the appropriate brush, in the correct line brushing pattern, and working in small areas of the dog's coat, the comb should be inserted parallel to the skin, and pulled through the coat so that the tines may detect close lying matting or packed undercoat against the skin. Inserting the comb perpendicularly into the coat is incorrect. Doing so allows the tines of the comb to raise up over, rather than capturing, matting and undercoat, or when coat is open and sparse, may create discomfort and skin abrasion. Close attention should be paid to friction areas, where matting is likely to occur; behind ears, around neck, under forelegs, tail, hocks, pasterns, chest and flank areas.

During competition, the comb is used to fluff the coat

for sculpting and shaping, and then to test the coat for smoothness. If your comb can not penetrate the coat then it will not capture the tangles and matting, it will not lift the coat sufficiently enough for shaping and it most surely will not allow you to test the coat for smoothness. So truly, pricey shears and outstanding scissoring technique will be all for naught due to the use of an incorrect comb and poor combing skills.

A competitor should observe the judge closely as he or she moves around your entry. Perhaps the judge is skilled in the use of the comb. Watch and learn. Next time, use the comb in the same way to self test, before time is up, you will see what the judge will see first and that gives you the upper comb...so to speak! Find it and fix it before the judge has a chance to show it to you.

Sitting ringside, it may be easy to pick the winner... that one WOW dog that presents a beautifully balanced and pleasing profile. But winning is a perfect combination of preparation, skill and artistry. Without proper preparation the final product will be torn apart by the judging process or will soon fall apart by default. The simple and humble comb is the competitor's most important tool. Use it correctly and often.

About the Author

Karla Addington-Smith is a four-time Cardinal Crystal Achievement Award winner and a member of the 1988 and 1989 GroomTeams. She is the author of the book, Introduction to The Foundations of Dog Grooming. Her articles on business & pet related topics have appeared in various industry & petowner publications including Today's Breeder, Groomer to Groomer, Pet Product News, Cat Fancy and Pet Boutique & Spa magazines. Karla, with her husband Craig W. Smith, owns PetSmith LLC selling professional tools, supplies and equipment to the professional grooming trade, and www.afortunatedog.com. She also owns A Fortunate Dog Spa, a premium services salon in Maineville, OH.

Groomer's Calendar

GroomTeam Sanctioned Grooming Competitions

July 15-17 NEPGP Summerfest
www.nepgp.com/summerfest Warwick RI

August 11-14 All American Grooming Show
aagrmgshow.com Chicago IL

September 13-15 SuperZoo's Groomer SuperShow
wwpsa.com Las Vegas NV

September 30-October 3 US Pet Pro Classic
petstylist.com Dallas TX

October 14-16 HH Backer – Celebration of Style
hhbacker.com Chicago IL

October 27-30 NDGAA Fun in the Sun
nationaldoggroomers.com Orlando FL



**Groom Team
USA wishes
to thank
our 2011
Sponsors.**



Platinum



Bronze



Gold



Copper



Silver



Stainless



Patron

**All of the generous donations make it possible to send a team to Belgium
and support our scholarship fund.**