

**Atlanta Pet Fair & Conference 2020**  
**GroomTeam USA Sanctioned**  
**First-Time Competitor Information Sheet**

**Contest**

**Prior to Contest:** Please arrive at the grooming stage 15 minutes before the ring is set to open. Once the contest ring is open, you may enter the ring and find your table and set-up your equipment. Each table will have a colored tag with your name, contestant number, contest name and the breed of your dog. Each division will have a different colored tag.

**Assistants:** You may bring an assistant to the show to help you with your dog and equipment, but they must exit the contest ring as soon as the contest starts and may not enter until the contest awards have been completed.

**Dogs** that are being utilized for competitions are to be kept in one of the holding areas, near the stage (available during show hours), or in the Dog Holding Trailer (available 24 hours). No soft sided crates are allowed. You will be responsible for exercising, feeding, watering, cleaning-up after your dog.

**Competitors should only use non-toxic** materials on their dogs. No hair color or accessories (except Mixed Salon) are allowed, except if you are competing in the Creative Styling Contest. You can request a list of safe non-toxic products at [janelle@wpamail.org](mailto:janelle@wpamail.org)

**Items provided for you:** We will provide a grooming table, grooming arm, chair and electrical for you in the contest ring.

**You must supply** your own grooming loop, grooming equipment (clippers, scissors, combs, etc.) you feel you may need during while grooming your dog.

**Beverages** must be in spill proof containers.

**Attire:** Dress in the ring should be professional for both men and women. Shoes (preferably with non-skid soles) must be worn. "Flip flops" and other open-toed shoes are considered to be unsafe ring attire and will not be allowed. A grooming smock is required to be worn during competition. Consider the dog's color when choosing your attire. For example, black dogs do not show up well in photos if the competitor is wearing black or any other dark color.

**Best First-Time Competitor Awards** will be held on Saturday, March 14 at 4:00pm at the Grooming Stage.

**Best In Show awards ceremony dress code is "dressy/classy."** Grooming attire or jeans/T-shirts will not be allowed. This dress code also applies to competitors' assistants. A show staff member will be appointed to represent the entry of any competitor who is inappropriately dressed for the Best in Show awards ceremony.

**All prize winners** must complete a W-9 form or International tax forms before payment will be made. If you win multiple awards, you only need to fill out the form once. Please hand your completed W-9 to a staff member by Sunday, March 15 by 4:00pm. United States and Canada winner checks will be mailed within 30 days of close of show. All checks must be cashed within 90 days of issue or they will be voided. All other winners will be paid on site at the contest table on Sunday March 15, after 10:00 am. Anyone not turning in Tax papers before the end of Atlanta Pet Fair and Conference March 15, 2020 will forfeit their win money. For international winners WPA is required to withhold 30% of total prize money.

## Spa/Bathing Area

We will have the following available for you in the bathing area:

Grooming Tables (folding type) with adjustable arms, Electrical, Dryers, Bathing tubs with shampoo and conditioners

**You must bring your own towel** for drying your dogs and your own grooming loop.

Please clean up after you are finished bathing your dog.

**Access to the Spa area will be on a first come, first served basis.** There will be sign-up sheets and the spa will be open 24 hours a day.

## Day Use Holding Area

This area will be located on the show floor next to stage. You must fill out one [Crate Card](#) per dog and one dog per crate. The crate card will have your contact information in case we need to get a hold of you. You are responsible for the care of your dogs and dogs cannot be kept on the show floor overnight.

## 24 Hour Dog Holding Unit

- The Mobile Unit, located outside the back of the exhibit hall, will be the dog holding facility.
- **The Mobile Unit will be open starting Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 5pm and will close on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 4pm.**
- You will be responsible for the care of all dogs you bring; exercising, feeding, watering, and cleaning up after your dog.
- For each dog, you will need to provide a crate (no soft-sided crates allowed), dishes and food.
- This area will be manned 24 hours a day but **you are responsible to exercise and care for your dogs.**
- You will be asked to sign a release when leaving your dog. To view, download and print all required forms, click [HERE](#). You will need one set of forms per dog. Please fill out, print and bring your forms to the Holding Room when dropping off your dog(s).

## Checklist for Traveling with Dog(s):

- Crate for each dog
- Plastic to go under dog crate
- Grooming loop
- Grooming equipment that has been sharpened
- Plastic bags (for food, dirty towels)
- Poop bags
- Water bowl
- Food bowl
- Dog blanket
- Towels for drying dog
- Paper towels for clean up
- Collar and leash
- Comfortable shoes and clothes
- Grooming smock
- If dog is borrowed or rented, emergency phone number of dog owner
- Disinfectant wipes
- Current vaccination info for dog(s)
- Take before/after photos of your hotel room