

Contest  
Entry Deadline:  
Wednesday, August 31, 2022



## 34TH ANNUAL PET STYLING CONFERENCE

U.S.



PET PRO  
*Classic*

2022

# Contest Rules

**Competition includes:**

GroomTeam Sanctioned Classes

Plus the following special classes:

U.S. Mobile Unit, Creative Styling,  
Model Dog, Prissy Pups, and Lollipups competitions



# U.S. Pet Pro Classic

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## Entry Closing Date:

Entries for the *U. S. Pet Pro Classic* must be received with payment by **on-line registration at [www.uspetpro-classic.com](http://www.uspetpro-classic.com)** no later than **12:00 midnight(CST), Wednesday, August 31, 2022**. Up until the closing date, a Competitor may change/switch dogs within a class or even change or add classes. After the closing date NO changes are allowed. Competitors are responsible for confirming receipt of their Registrations. With the exception of “*Acts of God*” (severe flooding, hurricanes, tornados, etc. as determined and approved by the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producers), **Late entries will not be accepted.**

## Entry Fees:

**\$89 per class or \$249.00 for three or more classes you wish to enter** (GroomTeam USA Sanctioned, entry level and/or Special Classes) — also includes the demos, trade show and Platform Shows — plus all Classic Hospitality events.

**Contest entry fees are not discounted & No refunds are granted for contest registrations**, but full credit will be applied toward any future U.S. Pet Pro Classic events or competitions if cancellation is received at least seven (30) days prior to the first day of the show (September 30, 2022). A partial credit will be applied if cancellation is received less than seven (7) business days prior to the first day of the show whereby the credit will be the registration amount less a \$75.00 processing fee and any applicable fees for contracted catering and/or hospitality services. No credit will be issued or applied if cancellation is received less than 72 hours prior to the first day of the show. **Credits issued for contest cancellations are honored for 3 years from the specific date of cancellation.** No credit will be honored beyond 3 years from said date. It is the responsibility of the contestant to contact the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producer to validate “credits” from previous years that might be applied toward their current contest entry fees.

## Awards & Prizes:

All trophies, cash awards, and prizes **must be claimed not later than 6:00 pm the last day of the competition**. **Prizes unclaimed at that time are withdrawn and cannot be claimed at a later date.**

## Administrative:

The U.S. Pet Pro Classic is a Two-tier, GroomTeam USA Sanctioned competition. Competitor must adhere to the rules stated herein and those contained within the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Contest Rules Addendum. Any rule, regulation, and/or procedure that may be subject to interpretation will be adjudicated by the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producer or their designated Contest Manager.

Competitors who would like to request a rule addition or change must submit their request in writing to the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producers Pam and Charles Lauritzen. Submitted request will be taken under consideration and if adopted will take effect at the next U.S. Pet Pro Classic. A “Request for Rule Change” form is included herein or can be obtained from the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Contest Manager. Any rule changes or additions to GroomTeam USA sanctioned rules are determined by GroomTeam USA and must be submitted in writing to the GroomTeam USA Board of Directors for their consideration..

## GroomTeam USA Sanctioned Competition:

Regular “Open” Classes at the U.S. Pet Pro Classic are GroomTeam USA Sanctioned. This non-profit organization encourages professional Pet Stylists to maximize their grooming education and skills, and offers them the opportunity to earn points by competing in sanctioned contests held throughout the USA within each designated two year period. Top point earners have the honor of being ranked among the top ten Competitors in the country. Depending on the number of Competitors allowed by the host country, the top-ranking GroomTeam Competitors may have the privilege of representing the USA in World Team Competition. For more information, visit their website at [groomteamusa.com](http://groomteamusa.com) or visit their booth at industry shows.



## Competitor's Responsibility To Read The Rules

**It is the competitors responsibility to access, read and comply with the official U.S. Pet Pro Classic Contest Rules.** With the exception of rules that pertain specifically to regular GroomTeam sanctioned classes (i.e. divisional and individual class rules), special class competitors must abide by applicable rules and regulations contained herein.

Do not rely on anyone else's interpretation, as failure to abide by the rules could result in dismissal or disqualification from competition. Questions regarding rules should be directed to the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Manager prior to arrival on site, and the Classic Contest Manager, Coordinator or Ring Steward while at the show.

## Contestant Check-in: **Mandatory**

**Check-In Schedule: Friday, 12:00 - 6:00pm, Saturday, 8:00am, Sunday, 8:00am, Monday, 8:00am**

Prior to their first class of competition, all contestants must check-in ringside with the Contest Coordinator or their designated representative. **No contestant will be allowed to compete without checking-in with the Contest Coordinator prior to their first class of competition.** All instructions and directions given by the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Contest Manager, Coordinator or Ring Steward **MUST** be strictly adhered to. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification from competition and no refunds will be given. Contestants MUST clean-up after their dog or risk being disqualified.**

## Regular Competition Class Structure:

### **Two-Tiered Competition**

The U.S. Pet Pro Classic is a two-tiered competition. It has two divisions of competition, with four regular classes in each division. Each division is designed to allow pet stylists to compete with Professionals who have similar competitive experience.

### **Division 1: U.S. Pet Styling Championship Classes - Qualifies for GroomTeam USA Points**

**The U.S. Pet Styling Championship classes are open** to all competitors.

The U.S. Pet Styling Championship divisional classes are eligible for GroomTeam USA Points.

GroomTeam Members, Owners, Handlers, or Breeders who have "finished a Champion(s)" in their specific breed(s), Instructors, Pet Styling Contest Judges and Certifiers must compete in the Open competition.

**1st Place class winners** from this division compete for the honor of becoming this year's

U.S. Pet Styling Champion (BIS) and U.S. Best All Around Pet Styling Champion. See rules, page 12.

### **Division 2: Yellow Rose of Texas (Entry/Intermediate) Classes — Does NOT qualify for GroomTeam USA Points**

**The Yellow Rose of Texas Division** is limited to individuals who are first time competitors — or who have never won more than:

- Six first placements, and a
- Best Pet Stylist In Show, or equivalent, or Best All Around Pet Stylist In Show, or equivalent, from any division at any GroomTeam sanctioned competition.

**1st Place class winners** in this division compete for the honor of becoming this year's Yellow Rose of Texas Pet Styling Champion. See rules, page 13. This division does **NOT** qualify for GroomTeam USA points.

**Note:** Should any Class in either of the above stated divisions have less than two entries, the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producer will determine whether the Competitor may compete within the Division or must move to another Division, if eligible. Competitors may elect to withdraw. Competitors may not compete in multiple divisions, unless the division change is mandated by Contest Management.

## Regular Classes (4)

Unless stated otherwise, styles must represent breed standards and should be trimmed per acceptable AKC breed profiles, i.e. the finished trim should present the illusion of correct breed expression, proportions, substance, balance, symmetry, and angulation, and be free of mats, pet styling flaws or injuries.

**Measurement of dogs:** Taken from the floor to the highest point of the withers.

### Class 1: Poodles (Purebred — All Sizes & Natural Colors — Toys, Miniatures & Standards)

#### Allotted Time:

- 11” and under — 1:30 Hours. (one hour & thirty minutes)
- Over 11”, up to and including 17” — 1:45 Hours. (one hour & forty-five minutes)
- Over 17”, up to and including 23” — 2 hours. (two hours)
- Over 23” — 2:15. (two hours & fifteen minutes)

**Acceptable Breeds:** All sizes, natural colors of purebred Poodles. (Toys, Miniatures, and Standards)

#### Poodle Styling:

All pet and show Poodle styles are acceptable provided they respect the breed profile as set forth by the standard and adheres as follows:

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

### Class 2: Sporting Breeds (Spaniels & Setters)

**Allotted Time:** 2 hours

**Acceptable Breeds:** Spaniels and Setters (see specific breed list)

**Styling:** Must be groomed and styled to breed profile as presented in the conformation show ring. Sporting coats must be carded and/or handstripped. Clippers are only permissible as permitted in the conformation show ring.

### Class 3: Wire Coated Breeds (Handstripped)

**Allotted Time:** See specific breed list

**Acceptable Breeds:** See specific breed list

**Styling:** Must be groomed to breed profile as presented in the conformation ring. Wire-Coats must be hand-stripped. Clippers are only permissible as permitted in the conformation show ring.

### Class 4: Other Purebreds (Scissored)

**Allotted Time:** See specific breed list

**Acceptable Breeds:** See specific breed list

## GroomTeam USA, Inc.® Breeds by Class & Time Allowed

Breed	Time Allowed	Breed	Time Allowed
<b>Other Purebreds Scissoring</b>		<b>Poodles</b>	
Bedlington Terrier	2:00	11" and under	1:30
Bichon Frise	1:45	Over 11" up to and including 17"	1:45
Black Russian Terrier	2:15	Over 17" up to and including 23"	2:00
Bouvier des Flandres	2:15	Over 23"	2:15
Irish Water Spaniel	2:00		
Kerry Blue Terrier	2:00		
Portuguese Water Dog	2:00		
Soft Coated Wheaten	2:00		
<b>Spaniels &amp; Setters</b>		<b>Wire Coats - Hand Strip</b>	
Clumber Spaniel	2:00	Affenpinscher	1:45
American Cocker Spaniel	2:00	Airedale	2:15
English Cocker Spaniel	2:00	Australian Terrier	1:45
English Setter	2:00	Border Terrier	1:45
English Springer Spaniel	2:00	Brussels Griffon	1:45
Field Spaniel	2:00	Cairn Terrier	2:00
Gordon Setter	2:00	Dachshund Wire	1:45
Irish Red and White	2:00	Dandie Dinmont	2:00
Irish Setter	2:00	Giant Schnauzer	2:15
Sussex Spaniel	2:00	Irish Terrier	2:00
Welsh Springer Spaniel	2:00	Lakeland Terrier	2:00
		Miniature Schnauzer	2:00
		Norfolk Terrier	1:45
		Norwich Terrier	1:45
		Scottish Terrier	2:00
		Sealyham Terrier	2:00
		Standard Schnauzer	2:00
		Welsh Terrier	2:00
		West Highland White Terrier	2:00
		Wire Fox Terrier	2:00

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

## Handstripped Entries — All Classes

- A.** Handstripped coats may be staged and/or kept in “rotation” per orthodox breed trimming methods and techniques as prescribed by respective breed clubs for preparation of the breed for conformation shows. However, sufficient coat must be removed during the competition and within the allotted time to make a distinct difference in the dog’s overall appearance; i.e., appearance of its head, body, legs, feet, tail, expression, profile, and overall length of coat.
- B.** Competitors may use clippers if prescribed by the respective breed club as a common method or technique used to prepare the breed for “show” (for example, shaving cheeks on the Scottish Terrier and Miniature Schnauzer); however, all clipper work and handstripping must be performed in the contest ring within the time allotted.
- C.** If, in the opinion of the Judge and show management, a required carded and/or handstripped entry is determined to be a combination trim (i.e. clippers and scissors have been used inappropriately), the contestant will be disqualified and ineligible for any and all class placements.
- D.** Chalk and/or other finishing agents may be used, provided they are applied prior to class start or within the time allotted, and that upon inspection by the Judge, the coat may be combed through using orthodox breed techniques. For example, Judges would not comb through chalked, teased, or product-enhanced heads of Terriers, such as the Westie.

## Eligibility of Competitors

1. Competition is open to all interested parties.
2. With the exception of competitors with speaker assignments at the show, no one employed by the Show Management or involved in the production of the show may enter.
3. Contest Judges are excluded from Regular and Special Class competition.
4. Speakers with assignments at the show may not enter under any Judge if their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of an unfair competitive advantage. In addition, speakers with assignments at the show who choose to compete must refrain from socializing with Judges; i.e. dining, drinking, rooming, etc. and must comply with all other show rules.
5. Employees, students, relatives, or others who have engaged in a vested business relationship **within the past 4 months** with any Judge may not enter under that Judge. Please check the Judging assignments prior to entering the competition.
6. Competitors should be cognizant of the perception other competitors and spectators have of interpersonal relationships between Judges and Competitors. Competitors must refrain from socializing with Judges; i.e., dining, drinking, rooming, etc.
7. Competitors may not enter under any Judge when their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of an unfair competitive advantage. Judges must **NOT** provide dogs for competitors in any class they are judging.

There will always be “**grey areas.**” always ask yourself whether the situation, however innocent, projects an outward impression of impropriety. **A good rule of thumb is:** If you have concerns about whether something is inappropriate, you probably should avoid the situation.

8. Competitors with judging conflicts at the Best Pet Stylist In Show Level may compete in classes where no conflict exist but will be disqualified from the Best Pet Stylist In Show competition.

## Special Classes (3)

The U.S. Pet Pro Classic is host to special classes that **are NOT eligible for GroomTeam Points**. Special class(es) have only one division per class and are open to all competitors. The following special classes will be hosted at this year's U.S. Pet Pro Classic.

### 1: U.S. Open Styles Championship

#### Acceptable

**Breeds:** Any mixed breed or purebred is eligible for this class. However, trims for purebreds must be uncharacteristic of their breed profiles. The finished trim should create the appearance of a dissimilar purebred or a mixed breed.

#### Examples

Acceptable: Poodle groomed as a Bedlington Terrier

Unacceptable: Lakeland Terrier styled as a Lakeland Terrier or similar appearing breed.

(Poodles cannot have shaved feet and/or face. Shaved face with mustache and/or goatee are also excluded.)

**Time:** 1.5 Hours: under 17" at the withers; 2 Hours, 17" & over at the withers

**No additional time is allowed for handstripped entries.**

**Standard:** Overall execution of the trim and its suitability to the dog's conformation, character and personality.

**Execution of the trim** is based on the quality of styling techniques and methods to include overall balance, symmetry, angulation and smoothness of the trim. **Suitability of the trim** is based on adaption of the trim to fit the dog's conformation, expression, character and personality. If a purebred dog is trimmed in the image of a different breed (i.e., trimming a Poodle to look like a Bedlington Terrier) — then the intended breed image and standard may be taken into consideration by the Judge.

### 2: U.S. Open Asian Fusion Championship

#### Acceptable

**Breeds:** Any mixed breed or purebred is eligible for this class. However, trims for purebreds must be **in Asian Fusion Style and should NOT represent breed profile**.

**Time:** 1.5 Hours: under 17" at the withers; 2 Hours, 17" & over at the withers

**No additional time is allowed for handstripped entries.**

**Standard: Asian Fusion Style** — A balance of inventive asian fusion pet styles combined with non-conventional and fun american pet styles.

**Color/Accessories:** Color, sparkle, bows and other similar embellishments are acceptable. However, they may **NOT** be so excessive as to create the illusion of a "Creative" trim or to conceal the pattern. If color is applied to the dog's coat, it must be temporary (example: chalks, non-permanent dyes or sprays, blow pens, etc.) — **NOT** a permanent color. **With the exception of specific coloring mediums (i.e. blow pens, markers, crayons, etc.), all other coloring (temporary dyes, sprays, airbrushing, chalks, etc.) MUST be completed prior to entering the ring to avoid damaging hotel/show property and/or equipment!**

Props are **NOT** allowed.

**Judging is based on the overall execution and suitability** of the trim to include the quality of the styling techniques and methods and the overall balance and smoothness of the trim. **Suitability of the trim** is based on adaptation of the trim to fit the dog's expression, character and personality. If a purebred dog, the trim should be uncharacteristic of its breed profile.



### 3: U.S. Model Dog Championship Competition

#### **IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ BEFORE ENTERING THE MODEL DOG COMPETITION.**

The “Model Dog Championship competition is open to all competitors. Competitors must supply their own model dog. While there are a variety of sources to acquire a model dog, in order to assure equality of coat materials, length, & density it is recommended that model dogs be purchased from one of the suppliers listed on our website. [Check the uspetproclassic.com](http://uspetproclassic.com) for model dogs supplier.

The U.S. Model Dog Championship competition will be conducted as follows:

#### **Acceptable**

**Trims :** All dog trims and styles are acceptable including open, asian and breed standard styles.

#### **Style Examples**

Asian: A balance of inventive asian fusion pet styles combined with non-conventional and fun american pet styles.  
Open: Mixed breed or a trim uncharacteristic of any AKC recognized breed.  
Breed Standard: A breed standard trim per the intended AKC recognized breed. (i.e., Poodle, Scottie, American Cocker, etc.). Breed standard trims **MUST** meet the applicable breed standard profile.

**Time:** One hour and 45 minutes

**Handling:** Once the class begins, competitors are allowed to touch and move the model dog while on the styling table. However, competitors are **NOT** permitted to groom or style the model dog in any manner while off the table. Model Dogs must be groomed in the same manner as you would a live animal. Competitor may sit or stand while trimming their model dog.

**Example:** Taking the model dog off the table and turning it upside down to groom the underlined or between the legs is **NOT** permitted.

#### **Miscellaneous Rules**

- 1. Styling time:** Except where noted below, all styling must take place within the allotted class time.
- 2. Brush-out:** Model dogs and their heads must be brushed-out prior to the beginning of the class.
- 3. Finishing sprays & products:** The use of finishing spray, hair spray, or any other substance is permitted to be used once the once the allotted class time has expired.
- 4. Color/Accessories:** Color, sparkle, bows, hair extensions, and other similar embellishments are acceptable. However, they may **NOT** be so excessive as to create the illusion of a “Creative” trim or to conceal the pattern. If color is applied to the dog’s coat, it must be temporary (example: chalks, non-permanent dyes or sprays, blow pens, etc.) — **NOT** a permanent color. **With the exception of specific coloring mediums (i.e. blow pens, markers, crayons, etc.), all other coloring (temporary dyes, sprays, airbrushing, chalks, etc.) MUST be completed prior to entering the ring to avoid damaging hotel/show property and/or equipment!** Accessories are permissible but **MUST** be applied within the allotted class time. Props are **NOT** allowed.
- 5. Banding, Spray-ups:** Show topknots may be pre-banded and extensions inserted per the breed’s acceptable breed standard & profile prior to the start of class. However, spray-up and setting of the show topknots **MUST** be executed during the allotted class time.
- 6. Face & Feet:** If acceptable per breed standard, faces and feet may the shaved prior to the start of class. If executing an asian or open trim, mustaches and goatees are permissible but must be completed within allotted class

#### 4. U.S. Lollipop & Prissy Pup Championship Competition

##### **IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ BEFORE ENTERING THE MODEL DOG COMPETITION.**

The “Lollipop and Prissy Pup Championship competition are open to all individuals. Competitors must supply their own “Lollipop” and Prissy Pup” models. While a variety of resources are available for model dog heads/wigs (Prissy Pups) and Lollipups, in order to assure equality of coat materials,length, & density it is recommended that model dogs be purchased from one of the suppliers listed on our website. [Check the uspetproclassic.com for model dogs supplier.](http://uspetproclassic.com)

The U.S. Lollipop & Prissy Pup championship competitions will be conducted as follows:

##### **Acceptable**

**Trims :** All dog head trims and styles are acceptable including open, asian and breed standard styles.

##### **Style Examples**

Asian: A balance of inventive asian fusion pet styles combined with non-conventional and fun american pet styles.  
Open: Mixed breed or a trim uncharacteristic of any AKC recognized breed.  
Breed Standard: A breed standard trim per the intended AKC recognized breed. (i.e., Poodle, Scottie, American Cocker, etc.). Breed standard trims **MUST** meet the applicable breed standard head profile and expression.

**Time:** **Setup & Placed on Display:** 10:00 am, Saturday., October 1  
Lollipups & Prissy Pups **MUST** be prepared, trimmed & finished prior to being placed on display.

**Judging:** 1:00 pm, Sunday, October 2

**Awards:** 5:30 pm, Sunday, October 2 (during Championship Awards presentation)

**Judging:** **Judging is based on the overall execution and suitability** of the trim to include the quality of the styling techniques and methods and the overall balance and smoothness of the trim. **Suitability of the trim** is based on adaptation of the trim to fit the dog’s expression, character and personality. If the Prissy Pup or Lollipop represent a purebred, the expression must suit the applicable breed’s head standard .

##### **Miscellaneous Rules**

1. **Styling time:** All Lollipups and Prissy Pups **MUST** be brushed out, trimmed and ready for presentation prior to placing on display.
2. **Finishing sprays & products:** The use of finishing spray, hair spray, or any other substance is permitted.
3. **Color/Accessories/Props:** Color, sparkle, bows, banding, hair extensions,spray-up of topknots and other similar embellishments are acceptable. Accessories and props are also permissible.
3. **Entry Type:** Entries may be submitted and placed on display as an individual entry or as a group. A place card should be setup beside or in front of the display listing the individual’s name or group’s name along with their city and state.

##### ***Remember:***

***This class may represent any mixed breed, purebred, asian, or creative hair style.  
You can add props, color, accessories and just go wild!***

***It’s a fun and exciting special class!  
— something you’re entire salon can enjoy.***

### 3. The U.S. Creative Styling Championship

The U.S. Pet Pro Classic is proud to bring you an extraordinary U.S. Creative Pet Styling Championship competition. Competitors are encouraged to select the theme of their choice — to just let their imaginations go WILD!

**Imagine “Your Favorite Theme”** ...now add dogs costumed and trimmed in creative designs that represent recreations of your theme. Throw in props, music, video, scenery and an MC and you’ve got this year’s over-the-top, fun and most imaginative U.S. Creative Pet Styling Championship competition ever!

#### **Special Creative Styling Rules:**

1. The U.S. Creative Design Class is an OPEN competition and entries may be presented by an individual, salon or team of Creative Pet Styling Designer(s). One or more purebred or mixed breed dogs may be used as part of each entry.
2. This year’s competitors are encouraged to let their imaginations go wild”. Themes may be recreated from the competitor’s favorite character, song, cartoon, movie, etc. and performed during the Creative Competition. However, all themes must be presented in good taste and with decorum.

**Each competitor may have only one - two (1-2) entries which must represent their favorite theme(s). Contest ring space is limited. All entries are accepted on a “first come, first served basis”. We urge competitors to register their entries early to:**

**uspetproclassic.com — Go to “registration”**

**Register NOW to secure your space. Entries are not confirmed until contest registration is received.**

3. Props, decorations, scenery, costumes, make-up and creative designs must be a recreation and presentation of the theme selected by the competitor. The design of the dog in the leading role must be the “Focal Point” of the presentation and all supporting dogs and cast members, props, and A/V must enhance the main theme.

**Presentations must not exceed 3 minutes. Costumes must be in good taste and not so revealing as to be offensive.**

4. Each competitor is assigned a designated 6’ X 6’ presentation area. All props, decorations, scenery, and supporting dogs and cast must be confined to this area. Backdrop props must be pre-assembled and able to be easily set-up on the stage and removed at the end of the evening.
5. **Special needs** such as electrical outlets, DLP projectors, CD Disc Player, etc. must be pre-arranged with the Classic Show Producer by no later than **July 31, 2022**.

6. **Check-In Schedule: see pg. 2 (Mandatory Check-in)**

**Upon arrival at the show, all contestants must check-in ringside with the Contest Coordinator or their designated representative. No contestant will be allowed to compete without checking-in with the Contest Coordinator prior to the creative competition.** All instructions and directions given by the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Contest Manager, Coordinator or Ring Steward **MUST** be strictly adhered to. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification from competition and no refunds will be given.**

7. **Contestants are required to check-in with the contest ring-steward upon arrival at the show. If applicable, Creative contest competitors must also be present for any special “Rehearsal” that may be required.** Check with the ring steward for the location of the Creative Challenge Orientation and Rehearsals (if required - check contest schedule for any required rehearsals).
8. **A designated staging area** will be available for Creative Pet Styling Contestants. Contestants must be ready for presentation & Judging of their entry(ies) by no later than **6:00pm, Friday, September 30th**. Check with the Classic Ring Steward for location of the staging area.
9. **Judging will be by two-three** Judges selected for their expertise by the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producer. Each entry will receive a score of 1-6 for **“Artistic Expression”** (originality, creativity and execution of the (trim) and a score of 1-4 for **“Presentation”** from the Judges for a maximum cumulative total of (10) points. The highest scoring competitors will be placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd respectfully.

A “People’s Choice” Award will be presented to the most popular presentation & design as determined by audience applause. A Best Entry Level Creative Styling Competitor” award will also be presented to the best competitor who has never placed in any other creative styling competition.

**Once the judging is completed**, contestants and their creative designs will be spot-lighted and on display for approximately one half (1/2) hour following the award presentations. We request that contestants take this into consideration and avoid props or decorations that might become uncomfortable for the animals or will not allow the animal to be exercised.

10. Entries used for the U. S. Creative Pet Styling competition must be colored, pre-trimmed, styled and costumed prior to presentation of their designs. All supporting props and decorations must be set-up and ready to be displayed by the designated start of each respective entry.
11. **Winners will be determined by (1)** the originality & creativity of the design & theme; **(2)** the quality of the styling techniques; and **(3)** the quality & harmony of the final presentation (props & decorations). All contestants must cooperate fully with Judges and show management or their designated representative’s requests.
12. **Each entry must be an original design and contestants must name their designs.** Contestants may utilize props, costumes, decorations, and finishing products to enhance their designs. However, they must not obstruct or interfere with the presentation or the Judges’ view of the creative trim. Creative Styling Artists must supply and provide a sign entitling their design. No product, decoration, or prop is permitted that would be uncomfortable for the animal or presents a danger to the animal’s health, safety, or well-being.

**NOTICE! THE U. S. CREATIVE PET STYLING CHAMPIONSHIP IS AN EXTREME, OVER THE TOP CREATIVE STYLING COMPETITION.** Don’t be afraid to go crazy with hair designs, hair extensions, weaves, color, costumes, make-up or props worn or used by the dog or presenter.

**However, remember all props, costumes, cosmetics and color must be comfortable and safe for the pet. Costumes for both presenter(s) and pets must be in good taste and not offensive.**



## 4. The U.S. Mobile Championship

To represent the industry as a whole, the U.S. Pet Pro Classic is proud to host our U.S. Mobile Unit Championship competition.

To

**Qualify:** **A. This is a LIMITED REGISTRATION event.** Pre-registration ends **August 31, 2022.** Following pre-registration, should space be available, and at the discretion of the U.S. Pet Pro Classic show management, registrations may be accepted on site.

**Registrations may be submitted on an official U.S. Pet Pro Classic contest registration form** which can be obtained and submitted at [www.uspetproclassic.com](http://www.uspetproclassic.com).

**B. Registration Fee:** To enter you must be a paid contest or seminar attendee at the U.S. Pet Pro Classic. "Paid Attendee" means payment has been received in full for a Classic "Contest Contestant" or "Deluxe Registration" Package Registration. "Trade Show Only" or 1 day seminar participant **does NOT qualify** for the Mobile competition.

**C.** All Mobile Pet Styling Units are acceptable. Mobile units may be manufactured by a local, national or international manufacturer — **or** they may be a "Do It Yourself" model. Each participant is allowed to enter up to two (2) Units (vans, trailers, etc.)

**D.** To be eligible for the "Do It Yourself" category, the interior must be designed, built, and all equipment installed by the owner and their assistants. A commercial manufacturer may NOT participate in the design, building or installation of equipment. Commercial manufacturers are ineligible for the "Do It Yourself" Mobile Unit competition.

Misc

- Rules:**
- A.** Unit owners or their assistants must check-in with the Classic Ring Stewart upon arrival at the show. At this time, a designated parking spot will be assigned. All units must be cleaned, parked in their designated parking spot and ready for inspection and pre-Judging by not later than 10:00am, Friday, September 30, 2022.
  - B.** Following inspection and pre-Judging, all mobile units are required to be in their designated parking spot and open for public display. Finalist must be prepared to be on the show floor and ready for public display beginning 8:00am, Saturday, October 1, 2022 and throughout the show.
  - C.** The Mobile Operator or their designee **MUST** be present at the Classic contest ring for the U.S. Mobile Championship awards presentation to be held at approximately 6:00pm, Sunday, October 2, 2022. Failure to be present will result in forfeiture of any and all awards (cash, prizes, trophies).

## Eligibility of Dogs & Disqualifications

1. Law dictates current rabies vaccination for all dogs. We also recommend that for the health of the pet that all dogs have current Bordetella and all other required vaccinations.
2. Dogs must be entered in the appropriate class for their breed to be eligible for competition.
3. Dogs must be within the specified height range for classes with height requirements.
4. Six weeks or more growth of hair is desirable; however, the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Management recognizes that some dogs grow coat more quickly/slowly than others; therefore, adequate coat will be defined as follows:

**Coat must be of sufficient length** to allow the Competitor to create a distinct difference in its overall appearance; i.e., appearance of its head, body, legs, feet, tail, expression, profile, and overall coat length.

5. The dog's coat must appear healthy, shiny, pleasant-smelling, clean, and free of ectoparasites and mats by the completion of the trim.

**Definition of a mat:** Hair that is tangled to the extent that a comb cannot be easily pulled through without exerting excess force. In other words — A comb will pull easily through a tangle but not a mat.

6. The dog's coat must be healthy and free of infectious diseases or parasites.
7. The dog must be manageable, without any sign of aggression or viciousness. It must allow handling by the Judge.
8. Competitors may not compete with dogs provided, bred, or owned by their Judge.
9. Competitors who are disqualified prior to the beginning of competition will be asked to leave the ring.

## Reasons for Competitor Disqualification/Dismissal

1. Non-payment of contest fees and/or late registration.
2. Coaching from within or outside the contest ring, including use of audio/visual aids.
3. Uncooperative or disruptive behavior in the contest ring.
4. Cruel and/or inhumane treatment of a dog whether by handling or neglect.
5. Late arrival to the ring.
6. Razor burning and/or injuring a dog.
7. Rough handling techniques.
8. Fraudulent class entry.
9. Disrespect, abuse, or damage of hotel, facility and/or show management property.
10. Any infraction of the show's contest rules.
11. Conflict of interest between the Competitor and their Judge(s).
12. Unsportsmanlike behavior.

## **Division 2: Yellow Rose of Texas Championship (Entry/Intermediate Division)**

### **A. Restricted to individuals who have never competed or to competitors who have not won:**

1. Six Division first placements, or
2. Two group placements, or
3. Best Pet Stylist In Show or equivalent, or Best All Around Pet Stylist In show or equivalent, from any division at any GroomTeam sanctioned competition.

### **B. Yellow Rose of Texas competitor's must adhere to all "regular class" and applicable "special class" rules.**

### **C. The title of "Yellow Rose of Texas Pet Styling Champion" will be awarded to the Competitor judged to have styled the best groomed and styled dog selected from the 1st Place Class Winners in the "Yellow Rose of Texas" division.**

1st Place winners are required to be present for the "Yellow Rose of Texas" Best In Show Judging and Awards. Failure of a Yellow Rose of Texas 1st Place Class Competitor to be present for the "Yellow Rose of Texas Pet Styling Champion" competition will result in revocation of the Competitor's placement and the 2nd Place winner will be elevated to 1st Place and compete for the honor of becoming this year's "Yellow Rose of Texas Pet Styling Champion".

**a. Competitors eligible for the "Yellow Rose of Texas Championship" competition may freshen up their dogs (i.e., bathe, brush, comb, and reapply rubber bands, artificial hairpieces (wigs), finishing sprays, and coat-enhancement products, such as hair spray and chalk) prior to the "Best In Show" Judging. However, no further clipping, scissoring, thinning, carding or handstripping is permitted!**

**b. An eligible 1st Place Divisional Competitor will be designated as "Reserve Winner" to the Yellow Rose of Texas Champion. In the event that awards to the Yellow Rose of Texas Pet Styling Champion are revoked, all cash prizes, trophies, and titles will be bestowed upon the "Reserve Winner".**

Placements at the show will not affect the Competitor's division eligibility throughout the weekend, but may require the Competitor to enter a higher division at subsequent shows.

**All trophies, cash awards and prizes must be claimed no later than 6:00 p.m.** on the last day of the competition. Prizes unclaimed at that time shall remain the property of the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Management and cannot be claimed at a later date.

## **Withholding Awards**

**Awards will be withheld** in the event that the finished trim does not give the illusion of the AKC breed profile. In the case of mixed breeds or purebreds in obviously non-breed specific trims, suitability of the trim to the dog's personality, conformation, and the execution of the trim are the determining factors. Entries deemed ineligible will not be considered for placement within their class. **Entries must have a "finished" appearance.**

If the quality of work presented has attained acceptable professional standards; i.e., the trim is finished, meets the breed profile (where applicable), and there is no basis for dismissal or disqualification, award placements will not be withheld.

Provided sufficient eligible Competitors are entered, 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements will be awarded in that order to the respective Competitors. Should there only be two eligible Competitors in a class, then 3rd place would clearly not be awarded.

## Awards & Prizes

### Division 1: U.S Pet Styling Championship (Open Division)

**GroomTeam Points** are awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placements in each class. The U.S. Pet Styling Champion (BIS) and the U. S. Best All Around Pet Styling Champion are chosen from the 1st Place winners in each class.

**The title “U.S. Pet Styling Champion”** will be awarded to the Competitor determined to have the “Best Styled Dog in Show” selected from the 1st Place class winners in the U.S. Pet Styling Championship (Open) division. First place class winners must remain in the ring following their class to have their entry re-examined by the “Class” Judge.

1st Place class winners are required to be present for the “Best Pet Stylist In Show” Judging and the U. S. Pet Styling Champion Award. Failure of a 1st Place class winner to be present for the “Best In Show” Judging will invalidate the competitor’s placement and the 2nd Place entry will be elevated to 1st Place and compete for “Best Pet Stylist In Show” and the title of U.S. Pet Styling Champion.

Competitors may brush, comb, and re-apply rubber bands, hair extensions, and finishing sprays such as hairspray and chalk and generally freshen up their dogs prior to the Best Pet Stylist In Show Judging. However, no clipping, scissoring, stripping, carding or trimming of any type is allowed. Re-shaping with water or product of any kind is prohibited.

The Competitor judged to be runner up to the U.S. Pet Styling Champion will be designated as **U.S. Pet Styling Champion Reserve Winner**. In the event that awards to the U. S. Pet Styling Champion are revoked, all cash prizes, trophies, and title of **U. S. Pet Styling Champion** will be bestowed upon the “Reserve Winner.”

**The title “U.S. Best All Around Pet Styling Champion”** will be awarded to the Competitor who has accumulated the most class points.

To qualify for “Best All Around Pet Stylist In Show,” Competitor must enter a minimum of three regular classes.

**Class Points are awarded as follows:** 1st Place = 3 Points    2nd Place = 2 Points    3rd Place = 1 Point

**In the event of a tie**, the winner of the Best All Around Pet Stylist title will be determined as follows:

**1st Tie Breaker:** Most Class placements  
Example: Three 3rd placements (3 Points) will beat on one 1st placement (3 Points).

**2nd Tie Breaker:** Most Competitors present. A point will be assigned for every Competitor present in the class.

**3rd Tie Breaker:** Most Regular class entries.



## Contest Policies & Procedures

1. Smoking will not be allowed in the ring or in any area of the facility where there are show activities.
2. Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that a dog is absent, disqualified, ineligible or excused by the Judge.
3. Except where stated in these rules, all types of grooming and styling methods and techniques are permitted inclusive of clipping, scissoring, thinning, handstripping, plucking and carding. Use of snap-on combs is also permitted.
4. Competitors will have access to the ring **30 minutes prior to class start** and must be set-up and have their dogs ready for the Judge's inspection at the time stated for pre-Judging. The class will begin as soon as the last entry is pre-Judged. Competitors who are not set up in the ring and ready to begin at the time shown for pre-judging will not be allowed to compete. Plan to be in the ring at least 15 minutes prior to pre-Judging.
5. The Judges will visually examine the dogs prior to the start of the various classes to determine eligibility of the entry. Competitors will have the opportunity to call anything to the judge's attention that might reflect poorly on the quality of their finished entry. Each Competitor **MUST** provide a comb for use by the Judge, should the Judge elect to comb through the dog's coat.
6. Competitors are responsible for supplying their dogs and grooming equipment, inclusive of crates, clippers, shears, brushes, combs, nooses, shampoos, etc. Each Competitor must supply their own dryer and grooming table/arm. Competitors must also supply their own towels and are **prohibited from using hotel guest towels and/or linen**. Equipment must be quiet enough so as not to cause a distraction for other Competitors or their dogs.
7. Due to the electrical problems incurred when circuits are over-loaded, hair dryers will not be allowed in the ring. Use of any other equipment that requires excessive amperage or creates excessive noise, such as vacuum systems, etc., is also prohibited. Low amperage lighting will be allowed provided it does not create a power problem or visual distraction to other Competitors.
8. Critiques by Judges will be allowed in the ring if they do not interfere with set-up of the next class. Competitors may also seek critiques from their respective Judge outside the ring. Critiques from other Judges are inappropriate and not permitted.
9. Since additional time has already been allotted for large dogs and for handstripping, preference will not be shown by the Judge to competitors with large dogs or who have demonstrated more labor-intensive techniques such as handstripping.
10. A Judge's Consultant will be available to act in an advisory capacity, should any Judge feel the need to seek information from another pet styling expert.
11. **Competitors are encouraged to dress professionally.** Excessively tight or revealing attire is strongly discouraged. Styling smocks are required to be worn during the competition. 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.

**The dress code for the Best In Show Judging and Awards is "dressy"!** Grooming attire or **jeans/t-shirts will not be allowed.** This dress code also applies to any Competitors' Assistants who will be exhibiting the Competitor's "Best In Show" entry. Should any Competitor or their designated Assistant be dressed

inappropriately, the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Management reserves the right to select and assign an appropriately dressed individual to exhibit the Competitor's entry for the Best In Show Judging and Awards. We ask all Competitors to come prepared with the appropriate attire to dress for the Best In Show ceremony.

12. Each Competitor will be held financially responsible for damage to hotel and/or facility property. Should the Show Management be notified by the hotel and/or facility staff that a Competitor has allowed a dog(s) to become a public nuisance, soiled hotel and/or facility property in public areas without clean-up, or has been charged for damage to a sleeping room, the Competitor will be disqualified and barred from competition.
13. Competitors who use bathing and drying facilities (including mobile vans), as designated and dictated by the show management and/or host facility, will be held financially responsible for any and all damage(s) and may, at the discretion of show management, be disqualified from competition.
14. Competitors fraudulently entering classes for which they are not eligible will be disqualified.
15. Disqualification for infraction of policy #12 and/or #13 will result in forfeiture of all titles, prize money, and trophies/plaques. Competitor will be banned from future competition, without benefit of registration fee refund. Notification of such disqualification will be sent to other show managers and GroomTeam USA.
16. Competitors are reminded that they have agreed to accept the decisions of the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Management as final and binding. Good sportsmanship is expected inside and outside the ring.
17. Open communication between Show Management and Competitors is crucial to the growth of our industry and encourages professional comradery. We appreciate your comments and recommendations, however, grievance, complaints or other issues involving the competition **MUST** be submitted in writing. For this purpose, a Suggestion/Grievance form is provided in this publication or may be requested while on-site from the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Contest Manager, Coordinator or Ring Steward.

**Should a Competitor have a grievance related to the competition or another Competitor, the following procedure must be followed:**

- a. Verbally notify the Ring Steward, Contest Coordinator or Contest Manager at the time of occurrence, and
- b. Immediately complete and submit to the Contest Manager a formal grievance in writing using the appropriate U.S. Pet Pro Classic Grievance form. The grievance form **MUST** be accompanied by all verifying documentation.

**Grievance(s) will not be accepted after the close of the class** (i.e. after all Judging and awards presentations have been completed) in which the incident occurred. Sportsmanship issues must be submitted prior to the close of the show and while all involved parties are on site.

## General Rules

1. **Preparatory Work:** All dogs should be freshly shampooed and dried, with ears cleaned, and toenails clipped prior to the competition.

For sanitary reasons, the pads of feet, genital and tummy areas can be pre-trimmed, according to the breed's standard.

**Poodles may have their feet (entire foot and pad), tummy and genital areas** trimmed prior to prejudging. Show topknots may be pre-banded, including hair-extensions prior to the start of the class. However, spray-up products are prohibited prior to the start of the class.

With the exception of the preparatory work listed herein, all other trimming, rubber-banding, finishing sprays and styling of the dog's coat must be performed in the ring within the specified class time.

2. **When time is up, it's up!** With the exception of finishing sprays, no other work can be done to the entry other than re-combing of the coat. For example, placement of bands in show topknots must be done within the allotted class time. With the exception of chalked furnishings, Judges will not comb through the head/neck of entries in show trims requiring application of rubber bands, hair spray or other coat-enhancement products.

**For example:** Chalked, teased and sprayed head pieces on Westies or banded and sprayed show topknots on Poodles **would NOT** be combed through by the Judges, however chalked furnishing on Terrier legs **would be** combed through.

3. Personal equipment must be removed from the ring following the completion of each class. Personal styling tables may remain if the table is identified with the competitor's name and contact information and the table is required for use in the next class.

**Large equipment cases and crates which require excessive floor space will not be allowed in the contest ring.**

4. All dogs are to be crated and properly exercised while not being groomed and styled. Please bring sufficient crates to house your dogs. All dogs must be on leash when not crated. Each competitor should bring plastic sheeting to be placed under and around the dog crates, plus newspaper and small plastic bags for disposal of dog waste, etc.
5. Competitors may tastefully display their sponsor logos and/or names on their uniforms/smocks during competition upon approval by the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producer. All other business entity logos/names, competitor titles or GroomTeam affiliations are strictly prohibited and may **NOT** be displayed in any fashion (uniforms, jewelry, medallions, etc.). **For details and approval, go to: [contest@uspetproclassic.com](mailto:contest@uspetproclassic.com)**
6. Dogs must not be left unattended on tables. Ask the Ring Steward for assistance if you must walk away from your table! Violators will be warned once; second violations will result in dismissal from the class!
7. **Dyeing of dogs** is not permitted in regular class competition. However, color enhancing is acceptable. For example, a black coat that is dull may be brightened or the black color highlighted and darkened, but it cannot be dyed to appear any other color than black. Chalk and chalk-like products are allowed provided they do not change the color of the dog and the table and surrounding areas are protected from damage and/or discoloration.
8. With the exception of the "special classes", dogs must be presented for judging without bows, bandanas and/or nail polish.

9. Beverages may only be brought into the ring in “spill-proof” containers.
10. Radios, head sets and/or cell phones may not be used in the contest ring.
11. Visual aids, such as photos, books, dvd’s, etc., may not be used in the ring.
12. Conversations in the contest ring must be kept to a minimum; it is distracting to other Competitors and could be perceived as “coaching”.
13. Other than the designated Show Photographer, photography is not allowed while the competition is in progress.
14. **The U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Producer reserves the right** to interpret, add, alter or nullify any rule, class structures, deadlines or statements. Said interpretation(s), addition(s), alteration(s) or nullification(s) shall be without prejudice and in the best interest of the show and/or the contestants at large.

### **Contestant Perks**

Contestants entering three (3) or more grooming classes will be allowed one free admittance for an assistant, and may have their door prize registration form validated in its entirety by the ring steward. The free registration for the styling assistant includes admittance to trade show, contest viewing, platform show and hospitality events for all three days of the U.S. Pet Pro Classic. Meals and seminars are not included but may be purchased separately. See the registration form for prices.

### **Bathing/Prep Facility Schedule - No Bathing/Drying of dogs will be allowed in Hotel Guest Rooms**

**The U.S. Pet Pro Classic sets up** a bathing facility to be used by U.S. Pet Pro Classic competitors. The facility is equipped with a tub, water and a styling table. A prep and drying room will be set-up on hotel grounds so that Classic competitors can dry and prepare their contest dogs. However, **competitors must supply their own tables, dryers, towels, products, and styling equipment when utilizing the Classic Prep facilities.**

Each competitor must clean up after themselves. Negligence could result in fines for damages, eviction from the show, disqualification, and barring from future events. Bathing/Prep facilities are available on a first come, first served basis. **Upon your arrival at the show, check with the Ring Steward for the location of the bathing/prep facilities.**

**Due to hotel restrictions, bathing, dyeing, or drying of dogs is prohibited within hotel guest rooms. NO HOTEL TOWELS/LINENS MAY BE USED FOR DRYING DOGS! We recommend that competitors bring their own towels**

### **Bathing and Prep Facility will be open...**

Friday, September 30th	4:00pm - 11:00pm
Saturday/Sunday, October 1st-2nd	5:00am - 11:00pm
Monday, October 3rd	7:00am - 11:00am



## **Pet Occupancy & Holding Facility**

Contestants may house their dogs in their rooms during the show. However, show **hotels are limiting pet occupancy to a maximum of two dogs per room**. Only dogs used for competition or show demonstrations will be permitted entry on the show/hotel grounds. The U.S. Pet Pro Classic and Hotel management reserve the right to enter guest rooms and remove dogs that are being destructive or causing any type of disturbance. Dogs must be kept under control and supervised at all times. Hotel staff will be monitoring rooms with dogs for violations. **One crate per dog is required. Protective floor covering (plastic sheets) under all crates is required!**

**For contestants checking out on Sunday, a holding facility for dogs** will be available for use from 9:00am - 5:00pm on Sunday. Dogs placed in the “holding facility” are the contestant’s responsibility and should be properly exercised, fed, watered and safely crated. Negligence could result in eviction from the show and barring from future events.

## **Pet Deposit**

A \$50.00 non-refundable pet deposit for each room will be charged by the official show hotel, the Texican. **No more than 2 dogs** will be allowed in any room. Any damages caused to rooms, hotel or Classic property will be charged to the offending party. If using another hotel, please check their dog policies.

## **Contestant Liability**

**Per Hotel demands**, only contest and demo dogs will be allowed in sleeping rooms and designated contest and seminar areas. Each contestant will be held financially liable for any damages caused by themselves, their assistant(s), or their dog(s). Contestants are required to properly care for their pets and responsibly feed, water, exercise and clean up after their pets. **The U.S. Pet Pro Classic management reserves the right** to remove dogs that are disruptive, destructive or neglected while on hotel/show grounds. Dogs must be kept under control and supervised at all times. **Hotel staff will be monitoring sleeping rooms for possible violations of the hotel’s dog policy**. Violators will forfeit all registration/contest entry fees/awards and hotel security will escort them from the premises and GroomTeam will be notified of any and all violations.

## **REGISTER EARLY OR YOU MAY BE DISAPPOINTED!**

Registrations will be accepted up to a **maximum capacity of 20 per class** until **Midnight (CDT)), Wednesday, August 31, 2022**. Please note that some Special Classes may have lower maximum entries. See special class rules.<sup>4</sup>

**For contest entry confirmation call: Scott, (801) 558-9715 or email [classic@petstylist.com](mailto:classic@petstylist.com)**. Confirmations are mailed to all qualified registrants. Entries received after classes have reached their capacity or after the entry deadline will be returned with all fees — or may be transferred to a Classic show registration.

## **Questions, Clarifications or Interpretation Concerning the Contest Rules**

**We want to help!** Should you have any questions or need a clarification or interpretation concerning anything involving the rules contained herein or about the competition, we encourage you to contact:

**Scott Lauritzen, U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Manager — Ph: (801) 558-9745 or Email:[classic@petstylist.com](mailto:classic@petstylist.com)**



# *U.S. Pet Pro Classic*

## **Sportsmanship Rules**

### **TRUE SPORTSMEN:**

1. Conduct themselves with integrity, courtesy and commitment to the sport and the competitive spirit.
2. Abide by the rules, guidelines, policies and procedures set forth by the individuals and organizations that govern our sport.
3. Are always considerate of the well-being of the pets entrusted to their care.
4. Are respectful and considerate of fellow Competitors, Colleagues, Judges, Show Managers and their Representatives.
5. Are respectful of show facilities and grounds.
6. Conduct themselves with a high level of civility, decorum, poise and humility, regardless of the outcome of an event or contest.
7. Do not disparage, defame or slander any Competitor(s), Judge(s), or Show Manager(s) or their Representatives.

### **POOR SPORTSMANSHIP MAY BE DEFINED AS, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:**

1. Disparaging or derogatory language or conduct toward any Competitor(s), Judge(s) or show Manager(s) or their Representatives.
2. Cruelty, abuse or neglect of animals.
3. Leaving the contest ring without permission or refusal to follow instructions or protocol set forth by Show Management, their Representatives, or any other industry official or individual.
4. Belligerent, rude and/or discourteous conduct toward any Competitor(s), Judge(s), or Show Manager(s) or their Representatives, or any other industry official or individual.
5. Intent to sabotage any Competitor(s), Judge(s), Show Manager(s), or other individual(s) by gossip, rumor, hearsay, disparagement, defamation or slander.
6. Premeditated or malicious damage to any equipment of a Competitor or to show property.
7. Attempting to influence Judges or their decisions.
8. Public rejection, disposal or destruction of awards.

### **FAILURE TO ABIDE**

by the aforementioned principles of sportsmanship could result in denial of entry at future USA shows, forfeiture of any titles, monies, awards, and eligibility for any points attained from the competition. GroomTeam USA will be informed of all infractions and rulings issued.

### **FORMAL GRIEVANCE**

must be submitted in writing to the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Manager, and must stipulate concerned parties and issues for consideration in accordance with show rules and guidelines. Grievance(s) will not be accepted after the close of the class, with the exception of sportsmanship issues, which must be submitted prior to the close of the show and while all involved parties are on site.

My signature below acknowledges that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Sportsmanship rules.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_



# U.S. Pet Pro Classic

## Suggestion/Grievance Form

Effective January 1, 2010

Competitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggestion(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Grievance(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Class** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge** \_\_\_\_\_ **Placement:** ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd

### Documentation/Verification

All signed complainant or witness statements and/or other documentation should be attached and submitted with this form. Verifications/statements other than those attached should be explained here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Competitors are reminded that they have agreed to accept the decisions of the U.S. Pet Pro Classic Show Management as final and binding. Good sportsmanship is expected inside and outside the ring. Publicly criticizing a Judge or the show reflects poorly on a competitor; however, written communication with the appropriate Show Manager is the professional method of resolving issues and is, therefore, encouraged. Open communication between Show Management and Competitors is crucial to the growth of our industry.

### Should a Competitor have a grievance related to the competition, the Competitor must:

- Verbally** notify the Contest Manager or Coordinator at the time of occurrence, and
- Immediately** submit a formal grievance, which must be submitted in writing, with verifying documentation, to the Contest Manager or Coordinator.

**No competition grievance will be accepted after the close of the class (i.e. after completion of all Judging and awards presentations). Sportsmanship grievances must be submitted prior to the close of the show and while all concerned parties are present.**

By my signature I am hereby stating that the information and submitted documentation(s)/verification(s) is true and accurate.

Competitor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_