

Pet Groomer

Bathe, clip and style dogs and cats. No licence needed, learn in months, and mobile groomers set their own prices.

TYPICAL PAY

\$37,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$31k to \$53k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Grooming salons, pet store
grooming counters, vet clinics, m...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Volunteer at a shelter or work part time at a kennel or pet store. Employers want to see you are comfortable with scared, wriggling animals.
- 2 Bather or grooming assistant** 3 to 12 months
Washing, drying, nail trims, cleaning kennels. Most salons train from here. Alberta's career site notes many salons teach staff on the job or in short private lessons.
- 3 Grooming school, optional** Weeks to months
Private schools run programs from a few weeks to a few months. Useful if no salon will train you, or to learn breed cuts faster.
- 4 Full groomer** 1 to 2 years in
Breed-standard clips, handling difficult dogs, cats, and your own regular clients.
- 5 Own the salon or the van** Later
Many groomers go mobile or open a shop once they have a client list that follows them.

Pros and cons

- + Work with animals all day
- + Start earning within months, no debt
- + Easy to go self-employed or mobile
- Low pay unless you own the business
- Bites, scratches and dogs that fight the table
- Hard on your back, wrists and hearing (dryers are loud)

Good to know

About 35,000 people do this in Canada

Job Bank counted around 35,500 pet groomers and animal care workers in 2023, and expects demand and supply to stay roughly balanced through 2033. Steady, not booming.

The doodle changed the job

Poodle crosses do not shed, so their coats grow and mat instead. They need grooming every 6 to 8 weeks for life. The rise of doodles is a big reason grooming calendars are full.

Optional boosts

Cat grooming. Hand-stripping and show cuts. Mobile grooming. Pet first aid.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Pet groomers and animal care workers, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Pet groomers, job requirements and regulation

alis (Alberta government career site): Pet groomer

Job Bank: Pet groomers, outlook

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/pet-groomer>



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