

Pet Groomer

Bathe, clip and style dogs and cats all day. No license anywhere in the country, and your hands do the talking.

TYPICAL PAY

\$35,360

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$27k to \$50k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Grooming salons, pet stores,
veterinary clinics, mobile vans, ho...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
A diploma is enough for almost every salon. Volunteer at a shelter or kennel to prove you can handle animals.
- 2 Start as a bather** 6 to 12 months
Washing, drying, brushing, nails and ears. This is the real entry point, whether or not you go to school.
- 3 Learn to groom** 2 months to 2 years
Either a grooming school program of a few months, or an apprenticeship under a working groomer who lets you take simple dogs.
- 4 Build speed and a book** 1 to 2 years
Income depends on finishing more dogs per day and on customers rebooking with you by name.
- 5 Certify, rent a chair or buy a van** Year 3 onward
Optional, and this is where the money changes. Certification is voluntary, ownership is not cheap.

Pros and cons

- + You can start with no debt and no license
- + Animals all day, and visible finished work every hour
- + Easy to go independent with a chair or a van
- Bites, scratches and repetitive strain injuries are normal
- Standing, lifting and bending for eight hours
- Pay is low until you are genuinely fast

Optional boosts

Cat grooming. Hand stripping and breed trims. Mobile grooming. Veterinary and senior pets.

Good to know

The pay figure is not just groomers

The federal wage survey files groomers under Animal Caretakers, together with kennel attendants, shelter workers and zoo keepers. That is why the published median of \$35,360 looks low next to what...

There is no license to lose

Grooming is one of the few hands-on animal jobs with no state license anywhere in the United States. That means no exam blocking you, and also no rule stopping someone with no training from opening the sho...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Animal Caretakers (39-2021.00)
National Dog Groomers Association of America
International Professional Groomers: certification tracks
United States Department of Labor: apprenticeship job finder

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/pet-groomer>



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