

Mobile Cat Grooming, Part 4

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Salon vs. Mobile

Most cats groomed in a shop situation can be turned around in less than two hours. However, it is very possible to cut down this time frame, regardless of temperament or condition of the animal, when grooming in a mobile salon, especially when utilizing the proper tools and equipment, such as the Catty Shack Vac®, Air Muzzle® or Clipper Vac®. Working efficiently and staying focused are easier to accomplish in the quieter, less distracting atmosphere of the mobile salon and the small working space of most mobile units is typically set up efficiently, allowing a groomer to work quickly and with ease.

Cats are little Houdinis, and the act of escape is raised to an art form by them. Grooming cats in a shop environment raises all kinds of safety issues for groomers and requires a careful and concerned eye towards providing the necessary safety and containment. In a mobile grooming truck there are few, if any, hiding spots or hidden dangers, and the concern is focused on the main doors. Most mobile groomers maintain the standard practice of keeping the truck doors locked during all grooming appointments. It is not an option to deviate from this practice when grooming a feline client.

Although there is much debate on the social structure of cats and whether they are truly solitary animals, one cannot deny the relationships many indoor house cats form with one another. Mobile groomers are able to capitalize on this emotional component by taking more than one housemate into the salon at the same time. The groomer will have to use their judgment and listen to the suggestions of the owner to see if this will work for a particular household or not. Some nail trims just go smoother with one cat's head buried in the other's side as they sit on the table together.

A possible downside to mobile cat grooming is that typically groomers are alone. There are times when grooming a difficult or temperamental cat can be more of a challenge without a second set of hands. If you have the option, schedule such cats when an assistant is available. Otherwise, consider increasing your handling skills by attending hands-on cat grooming school at the National Cat Groomers Institute to learn appropriate techniques for safely grooming many of the more challenging cats alone. The few cats that exist with temperaments that make the grooming process dangerous for themselves and/or the groomer, should be referred to a veterinarian for grooming under anesthesia.

Written by Juli Anderson, owner of Anam Cara Pet Spa, Inc., an upscale mobile grooming salon. Juli lives in New Jersey with too many dogs, too many cats, and too many kids ((according to her sister)).



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