

A Shout Out From A Former Student

Tiffany Lis, CFMG

It was the summer of 2010, and I had just made a momentous decision: I was going to cat grooming school. "You're going to do what?!" my friends and family sputtered. Ahh...but not just any cat grooming school! It was the National Cat Groomers Institute of America that I was going to! This soothed them a bit. It sounded reputable, and indeed it was, as well as, much, much more.

So the adventure began, two weeks of heaven for a cat lover like me. Who wouldn't love to immerse themselves in all things feline? I thought, breeds, colors, genetics...let's do it! Of course I should have been thinking- scratching, biting, peeing...bring it on! The revelation that cat grooming was not for the weak or the faint of heart made it all the more desirable to me. It was definitely an intense and impressive two weeks, mastering techniques needed

to conquer ferocious felines, we learned from the best. As it came time to depart the NCGIA, I was filled with confidence and pride, clutching my newly minted certificate, ready to take the feline world by storm.



Fast forward one year...I am running the only feline exclusive mobile grooming salon on the Monterey peninsula, as the premier certified feline master groomer in California, an excellent position to be in. The concept of a "certified" groomer specializing in cats has proven to be the ideal selling point. Since its inception, my mobile grooming venture has steadily gained momentum, attracting clients countywide. With each successful groom, my reputation has grown. In the early days, calls from clients often began with- "nobody can groom her... she bites" or my personal favorite- "last time he had to be sedated...I don't think you can do it".

I chuckled and said, "Don't worry, I've been trained for cats like that!" As the months passed, the calls began to change. Now they often start with, "I hear you can groom the wildest cats...maybe you can help me."

It has been quite an exciting transformation. The knowledge, skills and courage I acquired at the NCGIA have carried me through, without fail, each and every time. Certainly, this adventure is still in its infancy. Every time I open the carrier of a new cat, I take a deep breath, hearing Danelle's words, "You are faster, stronger and smarter than the cat," and I get the job done.

The NCGIA has facilitated the realization of my dream. I would not be on this phenomenal journey had I not become a CFMG. Every day, when the catmobile roars to life, I am filled with excitement. What adventures will this day bring? Who will be my wild kitty? It is an incredible feeling, knowing you can accomplish what others are terrified to do. This is my idea of a meaningful life!

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