



## BECOME A CERTIFIED FELINE MASTER GROOMER™

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Hi there!

We get requests on a regular basis from pet owners asking if we have any certified cat groomers in their area. As our organization grows, we hope to answer “yes” to each and every inquiry that comes our way! You can find information here that explains how to earn your Certification Feline Master Groomer™ certification. Becoming a CFMG™ is a challenging but rewarding experience that covers handling techniques, knowledge of feline breed and color terminology, recognition of common health concerns and symptoms, an organization of business goals and processes, and requires a demonstration of mastery over the cat grooming elements and services.

Certification begins with signing up for membership with our organization. Then you must complete all 9 NCGI exams. These exams include 4 written exams and 5 practical exams. The NCGI staff as well as approved trainers and certifiers located worldwide can provide guidance, instruction and support for you every step of the way. I'm confident that you will find the elite group of CFMGs to not only be a gathering of accomplished and professional cat groomers, but also a fabulous camaraderie of individuals who believe in community over competition.

So what is holding you back? A fear of certain cats? A lack of confidence? A gap in your cat grooming education? Through the CFMG™ certification process you will learn the information and techniques needed to be a confident and successful cat groomer. The NCGI team is waiting to help you start on your CFMG journey. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns you have during the process.

We are here to make you the best cat groomer you can be!

All the best,

*Danelle German*  
President & Founder

### ABOUT US

The National Cat Groomers Institute was established in 2007 as the first organization available for cat groomers around the globe. Our mission is to provide a standard of excellence through testing and certification for feline grooming and to provide on-going education and training.

### CONTACT

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FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/ncgia](https://facebook.com/ncgia)  
Twitter: @KittySchool  
Instagram: CatGroomCareer  
Hashtag: #CatGroomSuccess

## REQUIRED PURCHASES

### Membership

The first step towards certification is to sign up and be an active member of the National Cat Groomers Institute. Being an active member means you renew your membership each year after your initial sign up date. To maintain the status of any exams or completed certification, your membership must remain up-to-date with yearly renewals.

To sign up for a new membership, please visit [members.nationalcatgroomers.com](http://members.nationalcatgroomers.com) to fill out an application and pay the \$60.00 membership fee. Once we receive both, we will send you a confirmation email that contains your access to all NCGI member benefits.

### Study Materials

Before taking any written exams, you will need to purchase the study materials for these tests. These are found in the "Written Exam Certification Prep" online course for a cost of \$176.00. Inside this course, you will find the materials broken up into four sections, which correspond with an exam of the same title.

### Exam Fees

To take each exam, you are required to pay a processing fee of \$65.00. If a retake of an exam is needed the cost is \$45.00 per retake. For written exams taken via a local proctor all fees are to be paid in advance during exam registration. Practical exams are paid after completing those exams with a certifier and receiving verification from the NCGI office. Payments can be made through the NCGI webstore.

## RECOMMENDED FOR CERTIFICATION

### Complete Cat Groomer Syllabus

The Complete Cat Groomer Syllabus is an all-in-one training package that includes books, DVDs, and online courses that will cover the entire spectrum of cat grooming techniques and education. Included with this purchase is access to a private Facebook group, with guidance from NCGI instructors and a 10-week "Go Getter Plan" to help guide you through the materials and prepare you to take exams.

### Cat Grooming Basics online course

Cat Grooming Basics is a 6-week online course which includes lectures on the materials for written exams and step-by-step video tutorials of every element you'll be tested on during practical exam assessments. (This course is included in the Complete Cat Groomer Syllabus mentioned above).

[nationalcatgroomers.com/shop](http://nationalcatgroomers.com/shop)

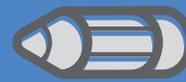
### Personalized Private Instruction

The majority of CFMGs have completed hands-on training with an NCGI certifier or approved trainer prior to passing practical exams. There are trainers and certifiers located around the globe. We can find one that is the most conveniently located to you. These instructors have additional training and resources so they can assist you in becoming more confident and proficient in the skills you'll need to pass your CFMG practical exams.

### Host or Attend a Workshop

NCGI President, Danelle German, regularly travels to every corner of the world for workshops, trade shows and seminars. We recommend attending these events to be able to ask questions, learn more information and potentially practice your grooming skills.

If you are interested in hosting a workshop or event, contact the NCGI office at [info@nationalcatgroomers.com](mailto:info@nationalcatgroomers.com)



# Temperament & Handling

We recommend that you start with this exam as your first CFMG exam. This exam covers types of feline temperaments, assessing the cat and general handling guidelines.

This exam has 25 short-answer questions.

# Breeds, Colors & Genetics

This exam can be intimidating for many students who are unfamiliar with using these color terms prior to reading them in the study materials. However, the knowledge you'll be tested on can be practiced on cat clients. Photos found online can help you become more comfortable using descriptions like "red" instead of "orange, or "blue" instead of "gray." You'll be tested on cat coat types, color terms and breed personality traits and origins.

This exam has 50 short-answer questions. There are NO pictures on this exam.

# Anatomy & Health

Give yourself time to study for this exam. This will test you on common health concerns seen in cats. This includes skin conditions, viruses, and other illnesses and conditions. You should be able to identify signs of various health issues when they are observed during grooming care. As a cat groomer, it is important that you are familiar with symptoms, means of transmission and adjustments you'll need to make (this can include cleaning procedures, changes in handling techniques, grooming services, and recommendations to owners). We are not vets, but groomers are their "eyes in the field" and can alert clients to more serious issues as well as recommend a visit to a veterinarian for diagnosis and any treatments needed.

This exam has 55 short-answer questions. There are NO pictures on this exam.

# Business Management

This exam requires you read the study packet and look at your personal and business goals with a critical eye. Use this essay as an opportunity to organize your goals and focus your game plan. This applied to everyone, whether starting or growing a business, focusing on how you will be incorporating the cat grooming skills you've learned.

This exam is an essay question with formatting requirements.

**ADDITIONAL  
STUDY AIDS  
AND MATERIALS**

Not a great test-taker? That's ok! We have some additional resources available if you need an extra boost before taking any of the written exams. We have online courses called Study Aids for each of the first three exams so you can get that extra bit of help as needed.

Also, check out the "How to Study for Written Exams" recorded webinar to get 45-minutes of study tips and tricks on taking these exams. It is available for NCGI members in Member Benefits.



## Grooming Elements

The grooming services we are testing you on are broken up into 5 practical exams. The exams and associated grooming elements are:

### SHORT-HAIRED FULL COAT GROOM

De-Shedding Treatment  
Soft Paws/Nail Caps Application

### LONG-HAIRED FULL COAT GROOM

Sanitary Clip (include under tail and between legs)  
Half-Belly Shave (stops at belly button)  
Full Belly Shave (expose armpit, stay inside flap)

### LION CUT - STANDARD

Includes standard lion cut lines, which stops at:  
- Neck: where a collar would sit  
- Tail: leaving a pom, approximately 1/3 of the tail  
- Front Leg: bend of front, 1" below elbow on back  
- Back leg: bend of front, at hock bone on back

### LION CUT - VARIATION

Variation of standard lion cut lines, can include:

- Full Tail
- Fuller Ruff/Mane
- Bolero or Jacket (leaving front of shoulder full)
- Mohawk

### COMB CUT

Comb Cut (lines are same as standard Lion Cut)  
Face Trim (Persian/Himalayan/Exotic face sculpting)  
Toe Tuft Trim (hair between pads and top of foot)

See Photo Examples On Next Page

## What We Look For During Hands-On Grooming & Exams

Each practical exam includes mastery of specific element in addition to general grooming requirements. For practicals, the certifier will look for the following:

- \* Proper use of equipment & products
- \* Safe and effective handling techniques
  - \* Appropriate time management
  - \* Clean and de-greased coat
  - \* Removal of mats or tangles
  - \* Crisp, clean shaved lines
  - \* Proper line placement
- \* Overall symmetry and balance



These things will deduct from a practical exam score or can cause an automatic failure depending on severity:

- \* Misuse of any product or tool
  - \* Mats left in the coat
- \* Lines too low or in the wrong place
- \* An injured or overly stressed cat

**All grooms must include a bath!**

The BEST way to prepare for exams is to purchase the "Complete Training Syllabus!"



Lion Cut Variation



Face Trim



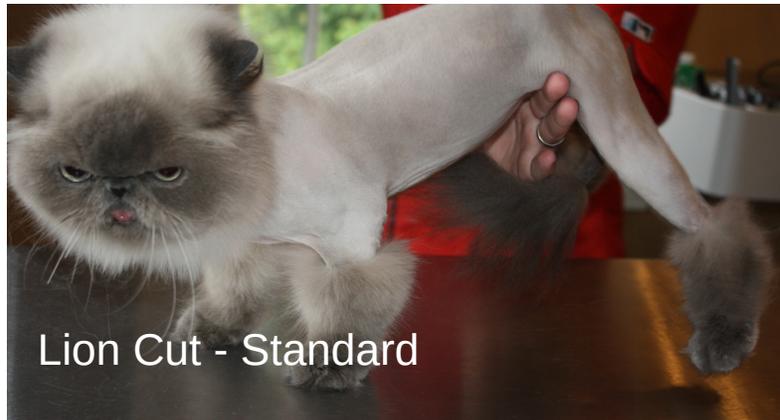
Sanitary Clip



Belly Shave



Long-Haired Full Coat Groom



Lion Cut - Standard



Tail of Lion Cut



Comb Cut



Short-Haired Full Coat Groom

# WHERE TO TAKE EXAMS

## Written Exams

Written exams can be taken with a proctor who is local to you. Proctors will need to be approved by the NCGI office before we will send exams to them. Proctors can include your local librarian, teachers, clergyman, etc. When you are ready to take an exam, you will need to fill out a registration form which will include your proctor's contact information. Exams are mailed directly to proctors and the proctor mails them back to the office once you have completed your testing session with them.

Other opportunities to take exams include the NCGI booth at trade shows, workshop events, or during private instruction with NCGI staff or certifiers.

## Practical Exams

Practical exams must be attempted and completed in-person with an NCGI Certifier. You will need to contact the certifier to determine schedule availability. To complete all 5 practical exams, you will need a minimum of 2-3 cats, one of which should be a Persian, Himalayan or Exotic (for the Face Trim). Some certifiers may allow you to borrow or rent cats from them and should be arranged ahead of time. Check the NCGI website for the most current list of certifiers.

Practical exams can be done during private instruction (PPI), a hands-on workshop, or by arranging to use a mobile grooming van during a trade show event that NCGI attends. All of these options must be arranged well in advance of an event.

## CERTIFIERS & APPROVED TRAINERS

### United States

Arizona - Melissa Hall, CFMG, Certifier  
California - Jessica Johnson, CFMG, Certifier  
Colorado - Rachel Diller, CFMG, Certifier  
Florida - Anne Thompson, CFMG, Certifier  
Iowa - Melinda Brink, CFMG, Certifier  
Michigan - Sarah Thomas, CFMG, Trainer  
New Jersey - Lynn Paolillo, CFMG, CFCG, Certifier  
North Dakota - Jacque Opp, CFMG, Certifier  
Pennsylvania - Justine Cosley, CFMG, Certifier  
Ohio - Angela Sexton, CFMG, Trainer  
South Carolina - Gracee Owen, CFMG, Certifier  
Tennessee - Alicia Ellis, CFMG, Trainer

### Canada

Alberta - Chelsea Waddell, CFMG, Certifier  
British Columbia - Sally Staples, CFMG, Trainer  
Ontario - Michelle Tao, CFMG, Certifier  
Quebec - Anne Thompson, CFMG, Certifier (French)  
Saskatchewan - Connie Buchanan, CFMG, Certifier  
Saskatchewan - Nicole Brundrett, CFMG Certifier

### Europe

Switzerland - Helena Wittwer, CFMG, Certifier  
Switzerland - Anja Battaglia, CFMG, Certifier

### Australia

New South Wales - Naomi Conroy, CFMG, Certifier  
Queensland - Sarah Warner, CFMG, Certifier  
Northern Territory - Michelle Auld, CFMG Certifier  
Victoria - Kylie Tatti, CFMG, Certifier

### Asia

Singapore - Desmond Chan, CFMG, Certifier  
Taiwan - Ya-Lan (Angela) Wu, CFMG, Certifier

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