

# Grooming Safety Standard – Version 1.0

## Australian Grooming Safety Standard (AGSS)

Version 1.0

Purpose:

The Australian Grooming Safety Standard establishes best-practice guidelines for professional pet grooming facilities to ensure **animal welfare, workplace safety, hygiene, and operational professionalism.**

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## Section 1 – Animal Welfare

Certified salons must demonstrate:

- humane handling of animals at all times
- recognition of canine stress signals
- safe use of grooming restraints
- supervision of animals during grooming procedures
- monitoring of dogs during drying processes
- immediate response to injuries or distress

Animals must **never be left unattended on grooming tables.**

Aggressive or distressed animals must be handled according to **documented safety procedures.**

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## Section 2 – Grooming Safety Practices

Salons must demonstrate safe procedures for:

- clipping and scissoring
- bathing and drying
- coat brushing and de-matting
- nail trimming

Groomers must monitor for:

- skin irritation
  - overheating
  - signs of stress or fatigue.
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## **Section 3 – Hygiene and Infection Control**

Certified salons must maintain hygiene practices including:

- disinfecting tools between animals
  - sanitising grooming tables
  - washing towels after each use
  - maintaining clean bathing areas
  - safe waste disposal procedures.
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## **Section 4 – Equipment Safety**

Equipment must be:

- maintained in safe working condition
- inspected regularly
- used according to manufacturer instructions.

Electrical grooming equipment must be protected from water exposure.

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## **Section 5 – Facility Safety**

Facilities must provide:

- safe flooring
  - adequate ventilation
  - emergency exits
  - fire safety equipment
  - clean working environments.
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## **Section 6 – Staff Competency**

Certified salons should ensure:

- groomers are trained in animal handling
- staff understand hygiene procedures
- emergency procedures are known by staff.

Continuing education in grooming practices is recommended.