Grooming Instruction Program
Homework Assignments: Introduction

“Determination, effort and practice are rewarded with success.”
-- Mary Lydon Simonsen, Author

Grooming Instruction Program (GIP) homework assignments give students an opportunity to incorporate the information they've learned by practicing specific skills that test their knowledge and understanding of pet grooming basics. In addition to the online curriculum (also known as “written stages”), ABC requires all students complete each mandatory homework assignment. These assignments allow Program Managers (PMs) to assess each student’s progress and offer assistance for the purpose of preparing students for their Externship, Stage 10. With this in mind, please remember:

☐ Each written stage and its accompanying homework assignment will build upon the previous Stage and homework assignment. In other words, some of the essay questions will require you to describe the previously assigned homework in your answer.

☐ Homework reports that instruct students to watch DVDs also requires that each student provide a full detailed written summary (more about this later) of tasks covered in that particular assignment.

☐ For the hands-on report, students must include a detailed description of all tasks performed and the reasons, as well as specific tools used and why they were chosen.

☐ Students must submit both before and after pictures for all hands-on homework assignments.

☐ Please don't jump ahead and do a homework assignment before the written Stage portion is completed.

☐ Be careful to not fall behind. It’s important to complete homework assignments on time. However, if you miss any assigned homework due dates, you will have another opportunity to submit missing assignments with your Stage 9 examination. All homework must be completed and submitted before you may advance to Stage 10, the Externship.

☐ Start handling your tools early and do so frequently. You should be able to identify all tools (names) and their functions before you start your Externship.
Your Questions/Notes:
Homework Assignments per Stage

As mentioned previously, homework assignments should be done upon completion of your written Stages. Listed below are all homework assignments for each Stage. Please carefully read the directions for each assignment and contact your PM if you have questions.

**Homework Assignment for Stage 3: Planning**
The purpose of this assignment is to help you begin planning for your future homework assignments.

Begin by doing the following:
- Determine the pet(s) you plan to use for practice (also known as “practice pet”). Suggestions for practice pets include your own dog, a family member’s dog; a neighbor’s dog, a friend’s dog, a dog from a shelter, etc. (If you’re still unsure, contact your PM for more suggestions).

- Before deciding on a practice pet, please consider the following:
  - **Accessibility.** If you are not the pet’s owner, make sure you talk to the owner in advance about your plans to use their pet(s) for multiple upcoming assignments. If you plan to use multiple pets from different owners, discuss your plans with them, too. By doing so, you are setting expectations upfront, which helps to eliminate any confusion and misunderstandings.

You will receive several upcoming assignments and may choose to use one pet for all of them or multiple pets. Do keep in mind ABC requires that at least one of your practice pets have a coat that requires a basic clip. Some examples of common breeds with hair are the Yorkshire Terrier, Shih Tzu, Maltese and Bichon Frise. If you’re still unsure which pets require clipping, contact your PM for help.

**Items needed:** List of potential practice pets

**Your Questions/Notes:**
Homework Assignment to accompany Stage 5: Practice - Nails & Ears

The purpose of this assignment is to practice nail clipping and ear cleaning basics on your practice pet.

It’s normal to feel apprehensive and a little nervous about clipping nails for the first time. Keep in mind that the more you practice a technique, the better you will be at successfully performing that task. Before you start your practice, be sure to review the steps outlined in your Stage 5 study guide.

☐ If you’re feeling uncomfortable about clipping your practice pet’s nails, practice using a wooden pencil. Practicing with a pencil helps you get a feel for the amount of pressure needed to cut through the nail without worrying about cutting the dog’s quick (blood supply). This exercise also helps to build your confidence before trimming real nails.

☐ Once you feel you’ve practiced enough with a pencil, clip your practice pet’s nails.

☐ Practice cleaning your practice pet’s ears and removing ear hair (if your practice pet’s breed requires it).

☐ Write a full summary (at minimum, two paragraphs or about half a page) of the two tasks you’ve just completed and answer these questions in the summary:
-- Why should pet owners’ have their dogs’ nails clipped?
-- What are the names of the tools you used to clip your pet’s nails?
-- Why should ear hair be removed on some breeds?
-- Describe your overall experience:
   Were there challenges? How did you overcome them? Were you surprised at how easy/hard a task was to achieve? Why? What was your level of confidence before you started and after you completed the task?

*Important Note: Retain your written summary from this assignment, as it will be used for your Stage 6 examination

Items needed: Practice pet
   Nail clippers from groom kit
   Styptic power from groom kit
   One or two pencils (optional)
   Ear cleaning solution from groom kit
   Cotton balls
   Access to email for document/photo

*Due Date: Written summary will be submitted as an essay question in your Stage 6 exam. After your exam submittal, email your Program Manager the photo for documentation.
Your Questions/Notes:
Homework Assignment for Stage 6: Practice-Brushing & Bathing
The purpose of this assignment is to practice correct techniques for brushing and bathing.

*Take a before and after photo of your practice pet; photos must be emailed to your PM directly

Review your groom tools from Stage 2, especially brushes and combs and their specific uses. Now you’re ready to brush and bathe your practice pet.

☐ Write a full summary (at minimum, two paragraphs or about half a page) discussing the tasks you completed; specific tools you used in accomplishing those tasks; reasons you chose specific items to use and your overall experience:
Were there challenges? How did you overcome them? Were you surprised at how easy/hard a task was to achieve? Why? What was your level of confidence before you started and after you completed the task?

*Important Note: Retain your written summary from this assignment, as it will be used for your Stage 6 examination.

Items needed: Practice pet
- Brushes and combs from tool kit
- Shampoos/Conditioners from toolkit
- Camera on your smart phone
- Email for document & photo

*Due Date: Written summary will be submitted as an essay question in your Stage 6 exam. After exam submittal, email your Program Manager the photo documentation.

Your Questions/Notes:
**Homework Assignment for Stage 7: Practice-Basic Clip, Know Your Groom Tools**

The purpose of this assignment is to help you become even more familiar with your tools so you can begin doing a basic clip on your practice pet.

**Take a before and after photo of your practice pet; photos must be emailed to your PM directly**

You are probably feeling a little nervous about doing a basic clip on your practice pet. If so, we suggest purchasing fake fur from your local fabric store and using it for practice. Review your groom tools, especially blades and shears. Now you’re ready to clip your practice pet.

☐ Do a basic clip on your pet. If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment, please contact your PM to arrange a date and time for a phone conference. During the phone conference, your PM will review the tasks you are expected to complete and the tools you will use to complete these tasks. The PM will also answer any questions you have.

☐ Once your basic clip is completed, write a full summary (at minimum, two paragraphs or about half a page) that will include:

1) Each task you completed and why you performed them
2) All of the tools you used to complete the task and why you chose to use them
3) Your overall experience with this assignment: Were there challenges? How did you overcome them? Were you surprised about how easy/hard a task was to achieve? What was your level of confidence before you started task and now after you completed the task?

*Important Note:* Retain your written summary from this assignment, as it will be used for your Stage 7 examination.

**Items needed:**
- Practice pet
- Clippers from toolkit
- Clipper blades/combs from toolkit
- Fake fur (optional but recommended)
- Camera on your smart phone
- Email for document & photo

*Due Date:* Your written summary will be submitted as an essay question in your Stage 7 exam. After you’ve submitted the exam, please email your Program Manager the photos for documentation purposes.
Homework assignment to accompany Stage 7: Reading & Super Styling Sessions

DVD Summaries Assignment I

This assignment should be completed in conjunction with your Stage 7 written Stage reading materials.

☐ Read pages 16 through 53 and watch the ‘Mixed Breeds’ DVD
☐ Read pages 54 through 76 and watch the ‘Scissoring’ DVD
☐ For each of the two DVDs listed above, write a full and detailed summary for each topic (at minimum, two paragraphs or about half a page) that explains the tasks that were covered in each DVD presentation.

*Important Note: Retain your written summaries from this assignment, as it will be used for your Stage 8 examination.

Items needed:  Device to view DVD
                Email access your for documents

*Due Date: Your written summary will be submitted as an essay question in your Stage 8 exam. No photo documentation is required for this assignment.

Your Questions/Notes:
Homework Assignments for Stage 8: Super Styling Sessions DVD Summaries

Assignment II
This assignment should be completed in conjunction with your Stage 8 written Stage reading materials.

At this point in the program, you should be practicing bathing, clipping nails, cleaning ears, working with clippers, changing blades and scissoring exercises.

☐ Read pages 42 through 52 and watch the “Head DVD #1 for the Cocker Spaniel”
☐ Read pages 53 through 61 and watch the “Head DVD #2 Maltese” & “Head DVD #3 Shih Tzu”

☐ Read pages 63 through 103, then:
  ✔ Watch DVD #1 Bedlington Terrier & Bichon
  ✔ Watch DVD #3 Poodle
  ✔ Watch DVD #4 Wheaton
☐ Read pages 104 through 130 then:
  ✔ Watch DVD #1 Airedale
  ✔ Watch DVD #3 Schnauzer
  ✔ Watch DVD #4 Welsh & West Highland Terriers

☐ Write a full and detailed summary for each topic (each breed profiled above) that explains the tasks that were covered in each DVD presentation. Each summary should be about a paragraph in length. When complete this assignment, you should have 11 breed summaries total.

*Important Note: Retain your written summaries from this assignment, as it will be used for your Stage 8 examination.

Items needed: Device to view DVD
Email access for documents

*Due Date: Your written summary will be submitted as an essay question in your Stage 8 exam. No photo documentation is required for this assignment.

Your Questions/Notes:
Stage 9: Preparing for your Externship
There are no homework assignments for this Stage.

Use this time to:

☐ Submit past due homework assignments.
☐ Ensure you’ve successfully completed your Pet First Aid/CPR course
☐ Prepare for your Externship by reviewing:
-- Stage 2, Groomer’s Tool Kit
-- Stage 6, Bathing, Brushing and Drying
-- Stage 7, Clipper Use & Scissoring
-- Stage 8, Breed Profiles & Mixed Breed Styling

☐ Prepare and/or update your resume
☐ Ensure you are in contact with your EC regarding details about your Externship

Your Questions/Notes: