

The Meditative Groomer



Academy

2024 Edition

Our Mission



Our mission is to make pet grooming accessible to everyone. Whether you are new to grooming or looking to expand your skills as a pet stylist, the Meditative Groomer Academy has a program for you. Using tools such as model dogs, private lessons, and consulting services for groomers and their businesses, we provide a comprehensive, well-rounded education. We are dedicated to upholding integrity in the industry and offering peace and harmony to our clients. Ultimately, we treat you the way we would want to be treated.

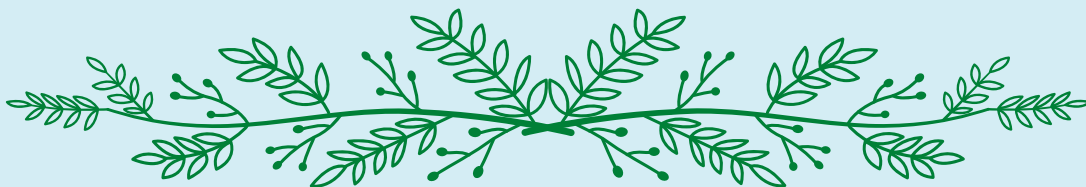
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Meet the Founders



Stephenie is an Autistic and ADHD self taught pet groomer. Their mission is to provide an education that caters to neurodivergent individuals. You also may recognize them as one of the two faces of “Grooming on the Spectrum” a support group and podcast about being or knowing a neurodivergent pet groomer. They are the former Training manager of Calling All Paws, a certified Nash Academy instructor, former Illinois State Grooming Team Captain, and current member of the North American Model Dog Team.

Stephenie lives with their husband John in Racine with their cockapoo, Nibbler, Irish wolfhound mix, Addison, 2 cats, Chiana and Fry, and 1 turtle. Stephenie is obviously passionate about animals and teaching but also enjoys their hobbies of gardening, painting, and foraging.





Meet the Founders

Stephenie Calhoun

Co-Founder Stephenie Calhoun is the Chief School Administrator at The Meditative Groomer Academy, located in Racine, Wisconsin. As the main point of contact for students, they will guide them through all Meditative Groomer Programs, from admission to graduation. Stephenie also serves as the head instructor for all courses in the curriculum.

With over a decade of experience and several distinctions, Stephenie is a highly qualified instructor who has successfully launched the careers of many pet groomers. Although their experience alone is more than sufficient to produce high-quality pet stylists, they recognize that diversity in training leads to optimal success.

As detailed on the following pages, The Meditative Groomer Academy has enlisted several industry leaders to provide instruction to students. Each instructor brings extensive expertise in specific segments of the grooming industry, ensuring a well-rounded education for all students.



Meet the Founders



John Calhoun



John Calhoun married Stephenie in 2017. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Robert Morris University and is a partner in a small business serving the trucking industry. Although John is not a trained groomer, he has supported his wife throughout her career journey and is well-acquainted with the industry.

John's passion for business extends beyond trucking; he is dedicated to offering products and services that truly benefit the customer. John has committed his career to small businesses, where meaningful relationships with customers and the flexibility to treat them with the respect they deserve are still possible. As he always says, "It's gotta be a win-win for both parties; otherwise, it's not working."





Meet the Partner

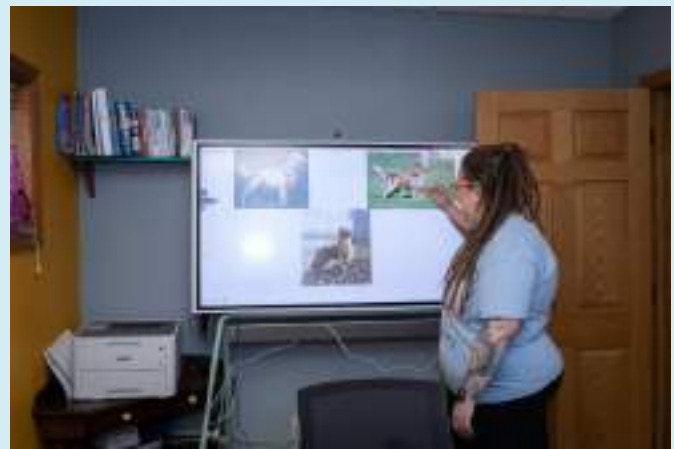
Meg Ioffredo



Meg Ioffredo has been a pet professional since 2012, beginning as a bather at a corporate salon. They have worked private salon, mobile, and house call, house call being their own business. Meg has taken every continuing education opportunity available to them and proudly have numerous titles under their belt: certified Pet Tech instructor, certified feline master groomer, rabbit groomer, certified canine esthetician, and more! Now, they turn their gaze on being an educator to give back to their grooming community, with a focus on cat and rabbit grooming. They also do everything from managing social media posting to graphic design. After helping out with the Meditative Groomer Academy so much behind the scenes, the decision was made to make them a partner.



Meet the School





Meet the School



Meet the School



The school facilities include:

- a lobby with a reception desk, chairs, turtle tank, and a public bathroom
- a break room with a fridge, sink, and microwave
- a vibe (relaxation) room with a couch and a chair
- a school bathroom with a washer and dryer
- a bathing area with two tubs and a floor bathing area
- a drying area with four drying stations and four dryers
- a grooming area with four electric grooming tables and a grooming station
- a classroom area with 4 desks and chairs, and a vibe board (screen for learning)





Meet the Teachers

Chris Anthony

Chris Anthony, weary from her travails in retail management and office work, found her calling in pet grooming. Her nearly 20-year journey in this career has provided her with numerous opportunities, experiences, and life lessons. Having groomed and managed in both small and corporate salons, and after starting her own successful house call grooming business in New Jersey, she has thoroughly educated herself on the various aspects of her career.



Chris has always sought out innovations in pet care, education, grooming techniques, tools, and products. Her passion for grooming and education has deepened her knowledge of scissors, scissoring techniques, ergonomics, and self-care, all of which help preserve her health and longevity in her chosen profession. Currently, she is the owner/groomer at Have Shears Will Travel and serves as the VP of customer service and sales at Evolution Shears. Chris is also honored to have co-founded the New Jersey Professional Pet Groomers Alliance, where she serves as the current Chairwoman.



Meet the Teachers



Gina Lee



Gina Lee has achieved Reiki Master/Reiki Master Teacher level in Usui Reiki. With a career background in emergency medical services and public service as a paramedic and 911 dispatcher, Gina is well versed in the gravity and honor of providing care for others. Gina has also enjoyed a robust career as a nationally certified EMS instructor and trained all levels of EMS from First Responder through Paramedic level certification. Gina has a passion for educating others and promoting health and wellness in mind, body, and spirit.





Meet the Teachers

Amy Triezenberg

Amy Triezenberg is an accomplished and award-winning groomer with numerous accolades to her name. She was a member of GroomTeam USA for six years, a prestigious organization representing the United States at international dog grooming competitions. Amy has earned many awards, including the People's Choice Award, the Best Scissored Dog Award, the Best in Show Award, and the Best All-Around Groomer Award. Her exceptional work has also earned her a nomination for Groomer of the Year, a testament to her talent and dedication to the craft.



Amy is a certified Pet Tech Instructor, ensuring that animals under her care receive the best possible attention with up-to-date pet CPR and first aid knowledge. Her educational videos and seminars have reached a wide audience, and she has contributed articles to Groomer to Groomer magazine. Amy's passion for grooming and education continues to inspire the industry.

Meet the Teachers



Michelle Knowles



Michelle Knowles, MPAe, ICMG, CCe, owner of All Things Paw, has over 34 years of experience as a private and professional pet care provider. Michelle is a Certified Master Groomer and a Master Pet Aesthetician. She has apprenticed, volunteered, worked, owned, and managed salons, kennels, zoos, and veterinary hospitals across the country. Michelle has also trained in Tuscany, Italy in therapeutic work, hand stripping and advanced dermatological care.

She has a broad experience in pet skin and coat care, extensive experience with fear and trauma recovery, elderly pets, and a focus on managing allergic/dermatological disorders. Michelle is certified through NDGAA and IPG, teaches advanced pet aesthetics at the Whole Pet Grooming Academy, mediates on the Master Groomer Council of Best Practices, and is a nationally recognized speaker in her field.





Meet the Teachers

Anjie Coates

During her 34 years in the grooming industry, Anjie spent as much of it learning about every aspect of not only grooming but about business. She knew she had to share the knowledge she had gained and began teaching grooming, and business so others could learn the secrets of her success. This has also led her to teach Pet Tech First Aid & CPR classes for pet professionals and pet owners alike.



Her passion for continuing education shows through in her achieving CMRG (Certified Master Rabbit Groomer) as well as CCE, ACG, and PGC. This brand ambassador for All For Groomers published the first rabbit grooming book in the industry, *The Quintessential Rabbit Book, A Compendium for Professional Rabbit Groomers and Pet Bunny Owners*.

Meet the Teachers



Samantha Payla



As a groomer, Samantha Palya started her grooming career in 1996 at Great Lakes Academy of Professional Pet Styling. In 1996, she competed in the All American Grooming Show, where she earned well deserved placements in grooming and hand stripping. She was awarded Best Groomer and Best Groomed Dog for a beautiful hand-stripped terrier at the Groom Expo that took place in 1998.

Samantha is also the proud owner of Absolutely Pawfect Pet Styling, Inc. and The Enrichment Stylist Pet Business of Consulting and Education. Currently, Samantha works with apprentices, helping to provide opportunities for future pet care professionals. She holds multiple certifications including but not limited to: Pet Tech Instructor, Skin and Hair, Salon Sanitation, Canine Body Language, Dog Gurus College, Pricing for profits, Communications Skills Leader, Heroes for Healthy Pets, and Salon Sanitation just to name a few. This year, Samantha is excited to introduce Enrichment Grooming to the pet care industry as a speaker and educator.





Meet the Teachers

Melissa Jepson

Melissa Jepson is a popular speaker and the Barkleigh Honors Up and Coming Speaker of the Year 2021 winner, as well as a Seminar Speaker of the Year nominee in 2022. She has owned and operated the award-winning Pupscale Pet Salon in Montclair, California, since 2013. As a founding member of the Association of Holistic Pet Professionals, Melissa believes deeply in creating a soothing, well-rounded environment for all aspects of the grooming salon. She is thrilled to partner with Precision Sharp to offer high-quality, American-made products.



When not traveling to trade shows, Melissa enjoys teaching webinars and classes. With over two decades of grooming experience and a comprehensive knowledge base, she provides her students with practical, day-to-day applications and a fresh perspective. A life-long learner with the heart of a teacher and the soul of an artist, Melissa excels at communicating and is passionate about sharing her knowledge with others.



Meet the Teachers



Kate Klasen



Kate Klasen is the owner/founder of the holistic grooming salon Balanced Paws in AZ. Kate started her grooming career inside a vet office before branching out on her own. She is Fear Free certified, a Reiki master, crystal healer and certified canine esthetician. Kate is also certified through Science Dog on canine nutrition and teaches classes on pet foods.

Outside of the grooming salon, Kate brought her passions together when she formed H.E.L.P where she brings in her past experience as a first responder and teaches emergency preparedness skills for people and pets, including Pet Tech CPR/First Aid. H.E.L.P offers human & animal CPR/First Aid and is an official training center for the Health Safety Institute. H.E.L.P also offers Emergency Preparedness consults & training. Kate is a certified instructor through Health Safety Institute, American Heart Association, AVERT, and Pet Tech.

