

# Meet The Groomer



## *A PPGAM 2021 Monthly Tribute To Groomers*

### Have A Coffee & Meet Mona Qually

Daughter, Sister, Professional Pet Stylist, Wife, Mother... This is a timeline of Mona, a career Groomer/PetStylist/Salon Owner – The Professional Pet Groomer holds many name tags, based on how the public sees them, their clients see them, their customers see them, and how they see themselves. This is our inaugural look into the complex tales of the Pet Grooming Industry.

Mona is a “LIFER” in this biz. She got linked, almost by chance into the world of pet grooming in 1978!

Growing up a grocers’ daughter at the Big Brick Store in Eli, Manitoba – Mona decided to seek some independence and life experience post high school graduation and moved in with her Aunt and Uncle in Calgary, Alberta, hoping to secure a secretarial type position for her first job outside the family store. On the job hunt, Mona’s aunt had a poodle that she took to Glenoble Poodles for grooming – Mona went with her, they were looking for kennel staff, well, Mona thought, “I can do that”, scrapped her secretarial search and began working there instead. After working in kenneling, Mona began helping out in different areas and another Glenoble location in Alberta – then one day, the owner asked Mona if she’d like to learn to groom – SURE! Mona stayed for 2 years, learning the trade of the day – “Boy O Boy has grooming changed! ... Back then, groomers were guarded

and the only form of industry info was reading the odd issue of “Groomers Gazette” by subscription”.

Mona learned about, and decided to join the PPGAM in 2010 – she had no idea she had a community of like minded industry professionals a phone call away since 1995/6. Ack! What!?! She chuckles about it to this day. 2010 was also her first Formal Education/Tradeshaw/Convention when she decided to try out COMMUNI- GROOM 2010. She’s even tried her courage at Competition – Before “Asian Fusion” was a thing, she creatively groomed a non-traditional pattern into a Shih Tzu mix at a Meet The Groomer Event Booth PPGAM hosted at the Red River Ex in Manitoba, She placed 1<sup>st</sup>! She has since participated in two other competitions and 7+ Conventions and Seminar events throughout North America.

Some of Monas GroomLife Experience Fav’s:

Fav Seminar: LISA LEADY, PPGAM Communi-groom 2010 – learning Balance/Lines – she’d never been taught how to groom to reflect anatomy and correction of conformation – her mind was blown

Fav Convention: Barkleigh Productions – Hershey – Trip with PPGAM 2013

Fav Grooming Tool: Auzzie Brand Nail Trimmers; Geib-Blue Breeze shears

Fav. Personal Invention: Groomer-Life/DogOwner Life Hack –



Mona with her canines:  
Finn-left; Nova-right

Deskunking recipe (check out PPGAM website in 2021 for the recipe)

Mona reminds us of how our industry has grown exponentially, not just in numbers and education but in resources – “from a stand up dryer... one kind of bath product... a brush, a comb...only straight shears and will power ...and now.. High velocity dryers, endless product choice to not just cleanse, but condition, fluff, colour, enhance, repair” She’s in awe of the options - Then Shears GALORE – Thinning Shears is her favourite tool since “ ...high velocity blowers, wow!”. Mona is very excited for the continued education that is now afforded to the

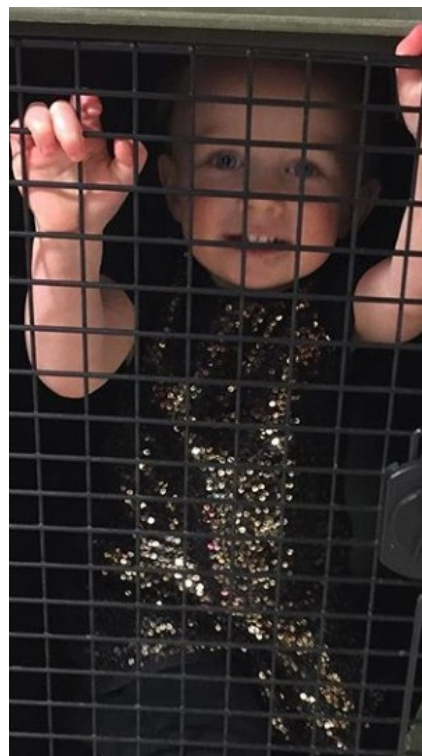
## Mona Qually *Continued*

industry, fed by science, art and “when you know better, you do better” credo type mind set.

From the handling of animals to being the first line of defense for the health of the pets – alerting their humans when their precious pet should go see the vet – her most alerting story to date is a farmer who regularly brought in his 3 little dogs for grooming – they always came in a mess- the dogs lived a carefree life outdoors, so, as Mona was removing the pelted coat, a portion of one of the dogs tails came off in Mona’s hand – turns out the dog had injured its tail on barbed wire fence, tail died off and was matted onto the dog. Mona had freed the dog of his zombie tail and the dog got a vet check up out of it.

Mona still grooms to this day – albeit 2 days a week—she is “retired”, her children are all grown up. 1980, she moved back to Manitoba, married her high school sweet heart, opened up her grooming business whilst helping her husband Don manage the family farm. Mona took a hiatus from grooming after her second child was born, and reflecting on her return, “dipped my toe back in...after my youngest turned four”.

Canine Country Clips, Mona’s home based business has a great set up. With a mind for learning, she’s always on the look for better ergonomics and gadgets to try, (she’s thankful each work day for the invention of the hydraulic grooming table). She muses, “The groomers of today have no idea how good they have it... don’t underestimate the value of education and career enrichment” She loves how the Grooming Community and Pet Industry as a whole has become more inclusive - realizing we are all better, when we are in it together. “There is so much to still learn and try”. Mona has drive – perhaps that’s why she decided an Australian Sheep Dog was going to be her “retirement gift to herself” – “Finn”, but now there is also “Nova” lovingly named after her husband’s ‘retirement gift to himself’. She’s otherwise still going 100 in a 60 zone in life, her dogs, her kid’s dogs, her 5 grandchildren, the family farm and an aged parent. Mona doesn’t feel she’d be a good mentor – I believe she’s already taught us a lot! Keep learning Mona, so you can share your experiences with us.



Photos above and below: Mona’s grandsons learning the trade

By  
E. Masi



## February Meet The Groomer Spotlight: Megan Andres

For more information about :  
How to become a Groomer  
How to find a Groomer  
Industry Support

Professional Pet Stylists in Manitoba,  
and all PPGAM members country  
wide visit [ppgam.org](http://ppgam.org) or facebook and  
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