

# Meet The Groomer



## A 2021 PPGAM Spotlight

## Goal Oriented Mindset? Meet Megan Andres

Being a middle child, Megan chuckles about her stereotypical middle child tendencies, but jumps into life with both feet—she holds a Masters of Fine Art in Playwriting and decided to take on the Pet Industry too!

Born in BC, Megan’s family moved to a small town in Alberta shortly there after, where she has her earliest recollection of being around dogs. She was out in town awaiting a parent and wandered into the local salon. She recalls asking the owner if she could get a job (She was 7). The owner, seemingly delighted in her interest, said she could sweep up the dog hair for her—it would then be almost 30 years later that she sweeps dog hair again! When she was 8 years old her family moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba where they all still reside today.

Megan currently works a well varied schedule of Mondays-Grooming at Animal Hospital of Manitoba Tuesdays are her official day off Wednesday-Saturday She Grooms at Vadas Club K9, Sunday she calls “Lita Day... Mia too—her canine bliss—Lita Day because I handstrip her every Sunday”.

She plugs in all other life stuff around that—her partner Ray doesn't mind though, he gets it—he loves their dogs too and Megan and he share another very cool common bond—Theatre!

Megan and Ray met in university. Megan thought she was going to major in Physiotherapy, was taking an intro Theatre course and Physio just, “fell away”. Meeting Ray, you could say was syncratic to finding her calling. She confidently exclaims that she’s happily a “theatre nerd”.

She graduated from U of M, with an Advanced BA and went on to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting at UBC, where

she received a SSHRC scholarship. Speaking of being a goal oriented achiever—while completing her masters, she also ran a Theatre Festival in Vancouver!

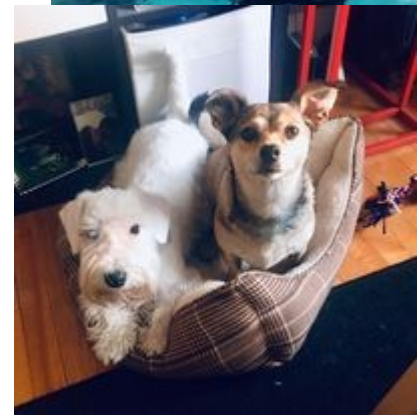
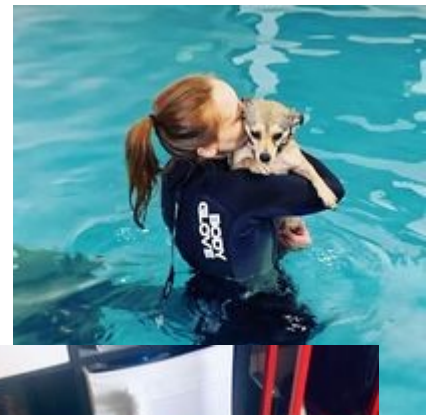
Both Megan and Ray have worked on screen and stage, where Ray went the actor route, Megan’s draw is writing, and exploring multiple avenues—hence pursuing grooming since 2018.

UBC was a crossroads for Megan, she speaks openly of mental health—being away from family and friends, she experienced home sickness, and her epiphanies soared, she realized she had been doing and achieving to satisfy others’ thoughts and expectations for her. Now in her 30s, she was excited to learn and grow, not only for others happiness but also for her own.

So, why groom? She wanted to explore her untapped love of dogs, so decided to apply for a job at all things dog related. She interviewed for a daycare attendant position with Pawsh Dog in Winnipeg. During the interview she expressed a drive to be a groomer and was happy to be offered a position as entry level groomer. Megan said yes, and found herself learning on the job in a busy and exciting environment. She was soon helping in other departments and locations, one of her favourite positions was as a Hydrotherapist at the Wellness location on Taylor. She thanks Laurel of Pawsh Dog for seeing her potential and affording her the learning opportunities to take her love of dogs and turn it into a trade that she can now make a second career of.

And right now Megan loves it, and has at least a 5 year plan to stay the course and keep Theatre as a side to pursue off grooming hours.

Megan is enjoying all the nuances of grooming like breed conformation. She remarks, “I love learning a new language: groomer language, and how things work and retraining my body to move around the dogs and think regarding each dogs unique behavior. ... and the Certification part. I’m a self professed student.



Above Photos:  
Megan with her gal Mia  
Dog Bed Besties: Lita & Mia

## Megan Andres *Continued*



I love the whole education aspect”, and is looking forward to more certification opportunity when they are available again.

Megan skills are advancing well and she took a leap of faith in November 2020 and entered a dog into the PPGAM’s first on line grooming competition, GROOMLOVE, where she placed 3rd in Novice Bouquet. She’s now looking forward to honing her skills to possibly compete in future opportunities like MasterGroom—which she loved going to in 2019. “I was overwhelmed by all the opportunities there and took in every seminar and watched all the competition judging—it was a world I knew I’d like to see more of, like going to Barkeighs Hershey Event and SuperZoo in Vegas. My favourite take away from MasterGroom was the handstripping seminar by Luis Martin Del Rio—he was amazing and such a

great educator—I could watch him all day.”

A few of Megan’s Current Favourite Groom Go Tos: Artero Mix Conditioning Spray from Lynn Professional; Natures Specialties & IGroom; Super curve 6” shears; double sided thinners; grooming Schnauzers; learning conformation and how coat correction through grooming can create different symmetry; having Kim Gibson as a mentor. “I love learning everyday... getting up each day excited,” she proclaims.

Part of her daily routine is coffee—she’s no diva about it but makes note about creamer, “As long as I have Butter Pecan International Delight, I’m good”.

Coffee has been a part of her repertoire for years. As has been acting, directing, writing, or providing dramaturgical services for various independent theatre companies, as well as site supervising at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival all whilst producing/writing/acting her own Theatre Company, Broken Still Productions.

Have you caught your breath yet? Megan realized in 2020 that she was burnt out, took some time off and reworked her schedule to find a better balance between her love of theatre and dogs and today is feeling reenergized. She is enjoying her dogs, her partner, her career choices and being able to take all new things learned and apply them to helping each dog and their family.

By E. Masi

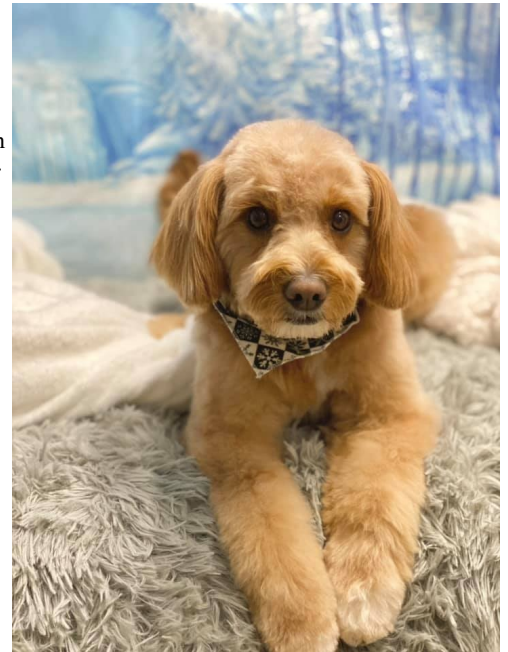


Photo above GROOMLOVE 2020  
3rd Place-Bouquet—Novice

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