

Meet The Groomer* Anniversary



A 2021 PPGAM 25th Anniversary Spotlight

Irenne Bader-PPGAM Founder The Groomers Trail Blazer

Straight up, straight shooter, pet industry professional, who believes in speaking up, speaking out and loving life.

At 75, Irenne is as sharp minded today as in 1996 when she decided it was time for Groomers to come together and support each other through professional career enrichment/sharing of knowledge, educating customers and putting the profession of Grooming in the trade respect category it so well deserved.

Irenne didn't start in the pet industry as a groomer. She started as a fancier, exhibiting & bred Collies & Great Danes in the late 70s & 80's, then show conformation judging, & grooming. She still grooms to this day—the day we had set up her video interview, she was grooming a little Poodlex "Honey", for a long time customer. "I started grooming show dogs cause handlers and



owners like how I was grooming my dogs... I groomed English Cocker for show back then too—all this before I would have ever called myself a groomer... It blew my mind that people would pay me to groom their dog... I started going to the library & found books from the New York School of Grooming.. I worked with several handlers on the east coast USA show route, honing my grooming skills while exhibiting in the Conformation ring. When I returned to Canada I finally opened up "Back Door Grooming in Winnipeg," She chuckles and adds in "... and officially quit my job as Chairwoman of The Student Aid Appeal Board... I went from dealing with Universities and Colleges to dog hair, full time!"

So why a groomers association? "I was tired of the lack of respect groomers had as a trade. There was no one to speak for us, We are a trade and an artist trade a that." I had made friends and colleagues around town who had pet shops and salons and were in conformation classes and these comments kept coming up in various conversations. Val Larsen called me up one day and said "I'm in" and The Professional Pet Groomers Association of Manitoba came to be... I remember Lori Irvorson and Leanne Mclvor, Rose Yakimchuk, Sandy Orford, Sharon Yardok, getting together for one of our first meetings... 2 grew to 6. to 10 and so on... within 7 years we had over 20 renewing



Irenne Bader, still loves volunteering for and supporting confirmation shows through judging and ring stewardship . Filling most her days with being Awards Statistician for the PWCA(C)

members and I was so happy that the younger groomers coming into the industry were finding us and different people were interested in being on the Board of Directors," Irenne is content to know that the PPGAM is in good hands with members Canada wide and growing. Knowing that Canada now has enough legitimate educators and community support within the industry, and to see the international grooming community grow and link with other Pet Industry Professionals not just as competition but as support, that many are calling each other family "makes me humble every day, I wish for everyone to reach their fullest potential... and glad the PPAM is being a helpful resource to people."

Pearls of Wisdom from Irene:

Irenne Bader, PPGAM Founder *Continued*

Be Good To Yourself—
Grooming can take a physical and emotional toll

If you're young and just starting out, don't be a hero, your body will pay for it later... and you will pay for it!

Be in as good as a positive frame of mind before you start your work day, the dogs will notice if your not

The finished dog stems from the bathing for the dog—it sets the hair up for success

Go to Dog Shows, ask questions—
Once we understand canine anatomy/structure we can then help the dog look as good as it could and can

Be a good steward to your profession and you can spend your life making a living doing a job you love

Mentor a newbie, find a way to give back to your community

“When we know better, we do better”
She digresses upon history of grooming in last 40 years. “... grooming equipment and knowledge of use has grown exponentially—never stop

looking and learning... Dryers, oh my such wonderful dryers now. Thining shears! Who knew!?... And Clippers that don't get hot!!!No more burnt hands and face full of hair!!!!”

Irenne has been quietly enjoying the PPGAM from a distance, still a paid member, with a “seniors rate” she chuckles, but fervently states, “I prefer to see people take something that interests them and runs with it... I'm grateful for all the hard work all our membership and Board of Directors has put in over these past 25 years... they are doing great things, bringing in certifiers and international educators, running multi day shows, and seeing our own membership become master groomers and mentoring each other... I'm around should anyone need me, but I'm happier to see things moving along, and being The Baba” The Baba, I ask?...” yup, my grandchildren call me The Baba, even made me a hat! I love them so. My son and daughter and their families are all dog lovers too, so even if I'd retire from grooming, I'd still be bamboozelled into helping them with their dogs, lol... but I'm crazy that way...”

By E. Masi



*Irenne began her fancy of canines with Great Danes and Collies and then Corgis. Photo c. 1975
“I'm my dogs biggest handicap”*

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 or facebook & instagram

25th Anniversary Celebrations Include:

Live & Recorded for sharing: Complimentary Zoom Webinar
Pet Allergies, Helping Pet Owners Help Their Pets
In celebrating education and the sharing of knowledge, one of the mandates of the PPGAM, live April 27th at 7pm
Dr. Lea Stogdale presented Pet Allergies - how to understand the signs/symptoms and how to be proactive in the treatment and maintenance of the health of your pet.

Look to PPGAM.org or FB Public page for the recording
PPGAM, Helping People Help Their Pets