Pet Grooming
Risk Assessment

CONTACT DETAILS

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL:

Lead:	**Primary Contact:**
Participants:	

SERVICE/ACTIVITY DETAILS

Purpose:	**Date:**

Benefit: Enhances pet comfort by removing matting, overgrown nails, and excess hair. | Improves pet hygiene and overall health through regular bathing and grooming. | Promotes bonding between pets and owners by fostering a healthy appearance and scent. | Reduces shedding and allergens, benefiting pet owners and indoor environments. | Reduces the risk of skin infections and parasites by maintaining clean and trimmed fur. | Supports early detection of skin conditions, lumps, and abnormalities.

HAZARDS

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Animal bites	Bites, puncture wounds, infections	Handling animals allows for grooming services, promoting their health and hygiene.	Provide comprehensive training for staff on animal behavior, utilize appropriate restraints when necessary, and establish protocols for handling aggressive animals to minimize bite incidents. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Animal escapes	Lost animals, injuries during escape	Handling animals in an open environment allows for comprehensive grooming.	Secure all entry and exit points, use appropriate restraints during grooming, and train staff on protocols to prevent and respond to animal escapes. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Burns from equipment	Burns from clippers, dryers, heated tools	Utilizing heated equipment allows for efficient drying and styling, enhancing the quality and speed of grooming services.	Regularly check the temperature of dryers and clippers, provide thermal protection equipment, and train staff to monitor and adjust equipment settings to prevent burns to both animals and staff. **(ALL)**	Staff, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Chemical burns	Skin irritation, eye damage, respiratory distress	Using chemical products is essential for effective cleaning and pest control, contributing to the overall health and appearance of the animals.	Ensure proper dilution of grooming products, conduct patch tests when using new chemicals, and provide immediate access to first aid resources to treat accidental chemical burns. **(ALL)**	Staff, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Chemical exposure	Skin irritation, eye damage, inhalation risks	Utilizing cleaning agents ensures a sanitary environment, preventing disease transmission.	Store all chemicals securely, provide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for reference, and train staff on proper handling and usage to prevent accidental exposure. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Chemical spills	Skin burns, respiratory irritation, environmental contamination	Using chemicals is necessary for effective cleaning and sanitation.	Develop spill response procedures, provide spill kits, and train staff on immediate actions to take in the event of a chemical spill to prevent contamination. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Electrical hazards	Shocks, burns, electrocution	Using electrical tools enhances grooming efficiency and service quality.	Regularly inspect and maintain electrical equipment, ensure proper grounding, and train staff on safe usage to prevent electrical accidents. **(ALL)**	Staff, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Exposure to zoonotic parasites	Flea bites, tick infestations, mite-related skin conditions	Interacting with animals, even those with potential parasite infestations, is fundamental to providing necessary grooming and care services.	Implement regular deworming and flea control programs, use personal protective equipment (PPE), and maintain strict hygiene protocols to minimize the risk of transmission of parasites such as fleas, ticks, and mites. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Fire hazards	Burns, property damage, injury from smoke inhalation	Operating electrical equipment is essential for grooming services.	Install and regularly maintain fire detection and suppression systems, conduct routine fire drills, and ensure clear access to exits to enhance fire safety. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Inadequate emergency preparedness	Delayed response to fires, injuries, medical emergencies	Being prepared for emergencies ensures a swift and effective response, minimizing potential harm and maintaining trust with clients.	Develop and regularly update an emergency response plan, conduct drills with staff, and keep emergency contact information readily accessible to ensure preparedness for incidents such as animal injuries, fires, or natural disasters. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Inadequate training	Improper animal handling, increased accident risk	Well-trained staff deliver high-quality services, enhancing client satisfaction.	Provide comprehensive onboarding and ongoing training programs to ensure staff are knowledgeable about safety protocols and grooming techniques. **(ALL)**	Staff	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Injury from animal falls	Fractures, sprains, bruises	Elevating animals during grooming allows for better access and precision, leading to higher-quality grooming outcomes.	Utilize non-slip surfaces on grooming tables and in bathing areas, employ safety harnesses, and supervise animals closely during grooming to prevent falls and related injuries. **(ALL)**	Animals, staff	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Injury from animal restraints	Bruises, abrasions, restricted breathing in animals	Proper restraint ensures the safety of both the animal and the groomer during procedures, facilitating thorough and precise grooming.	Use humane and well-maintained restraint devices, train staff on proper application techniques, and regularly inspect equipment for wear and tear to prevent injuries caused by improper restraint. **(ALL)**	Staff, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Injury from grooming tools	Cuts, abrasions, punctures	Using specialized grooming tools allows for detailed and efficient grooming, improving the overall service quality.	Keep all grooming tools sharp and in good condition, provide training on proper tool handling, and implement protocols for safe storage to prevent accidental injuries. **(ALL)**	Staff, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Manual handling injuries	Back strain, muscle injuries, joint pain	Handling animals of various sizes is essential for providing comprehensive grooming services, ensuring the well-being and hygiene of a diverse clientele.	Provide staff with training on proper lifting techniques, utilize mechanical aids such as hydraulic grooming tables, and encourage team lifting for heavy animals to prevent musculoskeletal injuries. **(ALL)**	Staff	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Sharps injuries	Cuts, punctures, infections	Utilizing sharp tools allows for precise grooming, enhancing service quality.	Use safety-designed tools, provide training on proper handling, and establish protocols for immediate response to injuries to minimize risks associated with sharp instruments. **(ALL)**	Staff	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Stress-induced animal aggression	Bites, scratches, behavioral distress	Handling animals enables the provision of grooming services, promoting their health.	Create a calm environment, use stress-reduction techniques, and monitor animals for signs of distress to prevent aggression triggered by stress. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Stress-related health issues in animals	Elevated heart rate, digestive issues, behavioral problems	Handling animals in a grooming setting is necessary to maintain their hygiene and health, despite the potential for stress.	Create a calming environment with minimal noise, use pheromone diffusers, schedule breaks during long grooming sessions, and tailor handling techniques to each animal's temperament to reduce stress-induced health problems. **(ALL)**	Animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Water hazards	Drowning, slipping, waterborne illnesses	Bathing is a crucial aspect of grooming, maintaining animal hygiene.	Ensure proper drainage in bathing areas, use non-slip surfaces, and supervise animals during baths to prevent drowning or slipping incidents. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**
Zoonotic diseases	Transmission of infections from animals to humans	Interacting with animals provides essential services that promote their health and well-being.	Implement strict hygiene protocols, including regular handwashing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and routine health checks for animals to prevent disease transmission. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients	Before Measure: **High** After Measure: **Med**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Allergic reactions	Skin irritation, respiratory issues, anaphylaxis	Using various grooming products enhances service quality, catering to diverse client needs.	Identify and document any known allergies among staff and clients, use hypoallergenic products when possible, and ensure proper ventilation to reduce allergen exposure. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Allergic reactions in animals	Skin irritation, respiratory distress, swelling	Offering a variety of grooming products enables customization of services to meet individual animal needs, enhancing client satisfaction.	Maintain detailed records of each animal's known allergies, use hypoallergenic products when necessary, and monitor animals for adverse reactions during and after grooming. **(ALL)**	Animals	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Animal allergies	Skin irritation, respiratory distress	Serving a diverse clientele increases business opportunities.	Screen clients for known animal allergies, maintain a clean environment, and use air filtration systems to reduce allergen exposure. **(ALL)**	Clients, staff	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Ergonomic injuries	Back pain, repetitive strain injuries, muscle fatigue	Performing grooming tasks ensures animals receive necessary care.	Provide adjustable equipment, encourage regular breaks, and train staff on proper body mechanics to reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries. **(ALL)**	Staff	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Inadequate lighting	Eye strain, tripping hazards, reduced grooming precision	Proper lighting enhances the quality and precision of grooming services.	Ensure sufficient and adjustable lighting in all work areas to prevent accidents and allow for detailed grooming tasks. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Inadequate ventilation	Respiratory issues, buildup of airborne irritants	Operating in an enclosed space allows for controlled grooming conditions.	Maintain HVAC systems, use air purifiers, and ensure proper airflow to prevent respiratory issues caused by poor air quality. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**

HAZARD	RISK	RISK BENEFIT	MEASURE	RISK TO	RISK LEVEL
Noise levels	Hearing damage, stress in animals	Operating necessary equipment ensures efficient grooming services.	Implement soundproofing measures, schedule noisy activities during specific times, and provide hearing protection for staff to mitigate the impact of high noise levels. **(ALL)**	Staff, animals	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Overexertion	Fatigue, muscle strain, reduced concentration	Maintaining productivity ensures timely service delivery to clients.	Implement workload management strategies, encourage regular breaks, and monitor staff for signs of fatigue to prevent overexertion injuries. **(ALL)**	Staff	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Slippery floors	Slips, trips, falls	Maintaining cleanliness reduces the risk of slips, ensuring a safer environment for both pets and staff.	Implement a rigorous cleaning protocol to promptly address spills, utilize non-slip mats in high-traffic areas, and ensure staff wear slip-resistant footwear to prevent accidents. **(ALL)**	Staff, clients, animals	Before Measure: **Med** After Measure: **Low**
Unpredicted risks	Illness, injury, death		Continuous risk monitoring conducted by all staff. Any unforeseen hazards must be reported promptly to supervisors or management, with immediate corrective action taken as necessary. **(ALL)**	All	**N/A**

NOTES

Extra notes & activity evaluation:

Completed by	Reviewed/Approved by	Risk Assessment Date	Review Required Date