



AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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By Leonie Fahey - Canine Country Club

Premier Groom Competition

Hello folks!!

Well this is my first time to write in the news letter!!The reason I'm writing in it this month is myself, Jenny Hale and Margaret Cribben participated in the Premier Groom competition in on the 3rd of August.

Our trip began by meeting in Jenny's salon in Celbridge on the Saturday evening. Jenny was frantic trying to get her dogs dried, as myself and Margaret were busy sorting out the van. We had 3 tables, grooming boxes, blankets for dogs, water for dogs, leads, cages and trust me PLENTY more!!!!Hope we haven't forgotten anything?? Too late now as we were running late!! so on the way we were deciding which would be the quickest way to reach port as time we did not have to spare. So we decided on the Port Tunnel as none of us had being through it! So in through the tunnel we go!!It was a life saver no traffic jams! Best piece of road the government built!

As we got closer to the dock I noticed a fox in the distance carrying what i thought to be a rabbit! Jenny thought it was a rat! and Margaret thought it was a shoe! Obviously the fox is looking for his Cinderella! hope he found her?? HA\HA! So we were checking in and Jenny handed over all the usual documents and then the lady asked us for our passports! only for Jenny telling us to bring them just in case, we would not of being able to travel!!So anybody going on the ferry don't forget your passport!!

We managed to get the dogs out for a few minutes before we sailed. Jenny was busy at the back of the van tying Rowan's hair into mini pony tails around his private area so he would not wet his coat...Poor dog I don't think he has got over the embarrassment of that yet!!!Anyway were on the ferry, all 4 dogs are fed and watered and in bed! we can now relax, have our dinner and a glass of wine and get a good night's sleep. Oh did I mention that the ferry is arriving 1hr later than what we had booked! UH OH!! So instead of arriving at its now .Jenny was competing first. She needed to have her dog on the table for for the judges. So that meant we only had 2hrs to reach the venue. So there was no time for getting lost!!We were the first off the ferry, so we found a suitable area to take the dogs out to the toilet.

Jenny drove like the wind, thankfully we didn't get lost and made it to the venue with 5 minutes to spare. Jenny ran in, got changed, while myself and Margaret brought in the table!

The only thing we were missing now is the dog! I ran back out to the van and grabbed the Snoodle (Ted), ran back in and would you believe I brought in the wrong dog! AHhhh. Jenny whispers to me" it's the red setter not him".I could not believe it, so I ran back out got Rowan and ran back in!!

The pressure is off for Margaret and I as we were competing in the afternoon. Thank God!!!As Jenny was busy stripping down her red setter, we relaxed and had a well deserved cup of tea!

The morning flew, as we sipped our tea and watched poor Jenny working so hard! Soon enough they were announcing the top 3 in Jenny's class in no particular order. It was a tough competition, everybody did a great job, but Jenny did an excellent job and sure enough her name was called out!!Margaret and I screamed when they called her name out.

It was as if we had won!!It was 12.30 and we had to have our dogs on the table by .The nerves were kicking in now! I was hand stripping an Irish Terrier X, Margaret was competing with her gorgeous miniature poodle and Jenny as you know with her Snoodle. A poodle / schnauzer cross!! Jenny and I ware in the same class, which was the workshop class and Margaret was in the poodle class. The competition was well underway and the standard is so high.

2hrs flew by and before I knew it the judges were going over the dogs. That magic comb should be banned!! You think you have every inch of the coat perfect until they get that comb and pull your work apart! So the judging is over and we are all standing around waiting to see which lucky people would make the top 3 in each class!! The second name to be called out in our class, you guessed it..JENNY!! Unfortunately for myself and Margaret our names were not called out but we were thrilled that Jenny got in the top 3 for both her dogs! You could feel the tension in the air now, as everybody was standing around to see where they got placed!!

Finally it started. Jenny took 1st place for the excellent work she done with Rowan the red setter. Myself and Margaret let off a massive cheer as this meant she was now going in for best in show, which was worth £1,000!! WOW! Now it was time for the workshop class. Well done, Jenny got placed 2nd with Ted, the snoodle. What a great achievement!!

It took the judges quite a while to decide who won best in show. This was my first overseas competition so I didn't know what to expect. To me it was like a dog show as each class winner had to walk around the ring with their dog so the judges could see every angel and flow of the coat! The dogs were then put back on the table and the judges went over each dog numerous times. I don't think I had any nails left by the end of it!! *Continued on page 4.*

CAMON COMBO DRYING SYSTEM

Some of our busy groomers have tried out this piece of equipment and let me have their thoughts on it. An expensive piece of kit at £1,442.55 (Excl. Vat), that's sterling, would need a lot of consideration before taking the plunge.

My thoughts.....

I have to say I didn't like this thingy at all. I tried to have an open mind each day to see if we could become best buddies even if that meant killing my credit card to afford it!!

Anyway it was not a blossoming love affair. I found the nozzle pieces tricky to work with, I found the paint scraper shaped nozzle very awkward to use in & around the dogs. It needs to be at a precise angle to be fully efficient and getting that angle on little itty bitty legs was not easy. The dogs did not accept it as well as I had hoped esp. after a buddy had raved how the dogs loved it.

The 2nd tube was impossible to fully close off therefore it was like working beside alive snake that wiggled around your feet even when I tried to jam it in somewhere it would work its way to freedom. I felt spending some extra time with the dog on the table rather than in the bath seemed to help but I feel the same result could have been achieved with my blaster in the same time frame.

I think the fact that I shoved the whole contraption in a far corner in the week leading up to Christmas says it all!!!! I am more than willingly to part with my hard earned cash for worthwhile pieces of equipment (my scissor drawer can vouch for that) but not for this "not so wee" contraption. I was glad to see the back of it.

Now please keep in mind this is personal opinion - next person may adore it just not me.

Jenny, Scruffy Pups.

What the Manufacturer says about it:



Professional Drier with water-suction systems. The Air-Combo suction-drier is an innovative appliance for the grooming of pets and, unlike traditional driers, offers many advantages, such as the elimination of undesirable animal odors'. This is because it does not simply dry water on the animal's coat, but rather removes it via suction, resulting in softer, shinier and more natural coat, as lime scale is removed along with the water. The air circulation system is fitted with a valve, which allows the operator to adjust the air power, from suction to force blowing. The Air-Combo also assures a more hygienic work environment due to the presence of a suction tank, which collects moulted hair, parasites, water vapour and fumes generated by the presence of anti-parasitic products on the animal's coat. The Air-Combo is also quieter than traditional driers. Furthermore, the heating of the air (up to 80°C) is obtained by means of compression rather than electrical resistance and therefore has several advantages: running costs are reduced, noise levels are low, it does not create electromagnetic fields, and it neither consumes oxygen nor produces ozone. The air heated by compression results in a natural, easy-to-comb, softer and non-static coat. The support post for the pipes can be delivered on request. Overall dimensions: 75x43cm, height 53cm Power Consumption: 1.5kW. Power

*Camon Combo Drying System
Alias; the Sucky Blowy Thing!*

The Sucky Blowy thing: -

I had the pleasure of trying this new piece of equipment, having read all about it I was curious!!

The reduction of air-born particles and all the wet being blown up the walls sounds great.

It is a substantial piece of equipment, quiet heavy but it being on wheels makes it very easy to maneuver.

I have one or two dogs that have never accepted the blaster these quite happily put up with Mr.Sucky this really speeded up their drying time which usually took ages.

I must also say the Sucky worked great on my cocker spaniel. With his long feathering the blaster tends to tangle him up but I could get him much dryer with this machine.

But that is where my friendship ends. On everything else yes you end up with it dryer but you also have to spend longer maneuvering the awkward hand piece around.

While you are using the Sucky bit the Blowy hose is snaking around the floor blowing hair around. Ok the suppliers tell you to take out the blowy hose

but that is just not safe to turn your back on the dog in the bath while you fiddle with the hoses!!!!

They claim it cuts your drying time well I'm not convinced. I was spending more time at the bath when the dog should've been in the cabinet and me starting my next victim.

Cleaning out the Water reservoir is a nightmare it is completely sealed bar the hole the water/hair and dander goes in, this is going to be a hot bed for bacteria to breed in.

My final worry about this machine is that it comes fitted with a 16 amp industrial plug which has been reduced down to a normal 13 amp plug. I would be concerned about this as this machine initially draws a large amount of power and if your system is stretched to its limit it will cause fuses to blow or switches to trip. Long term it should be wired into its own 16 amp slot on your fuse board.

I will be keeping my eye on the future models of this machine and hopefully the GUYS that make them will listen to the WOMEN that use/test them!!!!

K :- Woofers

The Combo dryer,

I actually liked the machine. I felt the reaction of my dogs was good - in fact no different to their reaction to the blaster- and because it doesn't pose a risk to their faces I actually used it (carefully) on Scottie and schnauzer beards. I found the round shaped nozzle better than the flat and front legs on toy breeds fit right in there!!! On balance, the dogs are drier than they would be with the same amount of time blasting. I use a cabinet dryer and with enough "sucking" they could often be fluff dried and finished straight away, without the use of the cabinet.

The most obvious and pleasant difference is no hair and water spray in your face after bathing. The air quality is so much better for us humans and it's amazing to see what comes out of the tank at the end of the day! Anything that improves our working environment has to be good. I didn't use the blaster element as we used our own blaster , but I believe it is as powerful as any good blaster on the market.

On the down side of course is the price, I'm afraid prohibitive for me and I did also find the machine a little cumbersome to work around on the floor of my bathing room. We have two baths and a table with constant traffic and it took up some extra space in a busy area. Provided a potential customer can afford the initial outlay this could be a wise investment.

Suzanne, Dogsbody



Castlelack Canine Products
 Tel: 023-41366 Fax: 023-43164
 Castlelack, Mishells, Bandon,
 Co.Cork, Ireland.
 e-mail: info@ccpdogs.ie



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City & Guild 7750 Level 3 Written exam:

There will always be a question on your 7750 paper requiring you to do some sketching. No one is expected to produce perfect artwork, but the question will be specific and it is advisable to bring coloured pencils to help highlight certain areas. Use arrows if necessary but remember quality is always better than quantity and the examiner will spot waffle!

For example; you are expected to have a good knowledge of the Kennel Club Breed Standard. This means not just the breeds on your practical modules but those you can expect to see in your salon day to day. Let's take any of the long-legged terriers, head shapes are not all the same and it is important to know the breeds that have a "fall" (hair that falls from between the eyes down to the muzzle i.e. Lakeland, Kerry Blue, Wheaten) and those that have divided eyebrows. You may be given two boxes and asked to draw the head shape of a Welsh versus a Lakeland Terrier.

You should mark the clipped area as well as the shape of the eyebrows and beard. If the question asks for full body clipping lines, try using coloured pencils to show clipped, blended and scissored areas of the dog. Failing that, different patterns and shading to show where clipping changes to blending etc. Try to imagine you are demonstrating to someone who has never clipped a dog before how to trim to the required standard, in as clear and concise a way as possible.

Spaniels are of course another favourite. There are Welsh and English Springer Spaniels and the differences can be confusing initially, especially as English are much more common (and come in all shapes and Sizes!) A favourite question is to sketch the two head shapes. What they are looking for here is if the candidate is aware that the Welsh Springer has a totally different ear shape to the English. Welsh; stripped all over for show or thinned/clipped for pet. English; top third of ear clipped neatly with the remainder of the ear left free flowing and neatened at the end.

Schnauzers feature quite often, and it's important to learn the correct lines and not to confuse these with any other breed. When sketching it is advisable to mention blade lengths as you will need to demonstrate the difference between the body length and the fine clipping around head and ears. Remember everyone will consult the guidelines for this exam and they are available to download from the NPTC website. It's best to keep in touch with the Pet Care Trust for any updated versions. In fact it's good to keep in touch with the Pet Care Trust for most things! The guidelines will give you the information on each breed but if you are in any doubt as to the finer details of any aspect of grooming consider consulting with someone who has been through the exam themselves or a qualified tutor. It may be tempting to give the exam a go to see how you get on, but preparation is the key and as an IPDGA member you have access to all our seminars and newsletters. The association is committed to furthering education in grooming and will help in any way it can to see more groomers achieve their 7750 qualification. Good luck!
Suzanne

Dates for your Diary;

- City & Guilds Practical Exam; September 6th, Venue Scruffy Pups
- Next Written 8th October Register with Pet Care Trust
- Irish Professional Dog Groomers Championships 2008 11/12th October. Venue Roadstone
- Watch out for new venue for City & Guilds exams in .

For Sale

Folding, adjustable table, height range from 24 inches to 35 inches & grooming arm & noose. blade rack and scissor/tool rack. 2 foot x 4 foot .approx 100 euro - is 222 euro new in Christies - call Ann 086 1645485

2 x Shor-Line (stainless steel) cages for sale, plus platform.

Top cage; 21.5" x 28" x 30"

Bottom cage; 30" x 30" x 28"

Can be easily separated. Excellent condition, can be viewed anytime.

Contact Suzanne O' Sullivan 01 4924631

For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale For

...Premier Groom Cont. From page 1

The judges then huddled together as if they were giving a team talk! They still were not sure, so back over the dogs AGAIN!! The tension was really building up now! Finally we have a decision, very very tough but there can only be 1 winner. Unfortunately Jenny did not get best in show. A champion show Westie took the grand prize. a toy poodle took 2nd. We had plenty of time to spare so we finally got something to eat, a chocolate bar and a can of coke!! I got great feedback from the judges, so next year BEWARE!!! HA HA

We once again got the van packed up, not anywhere near as neat as it was coming over! At this stage all 4 dogs were in great form, as if they knew they had done a great job and the pressure was off them to be on their best behaviour!! All dogs were relaxed and ready for a nice dinner and plenty of sleep.

So back in the van and off on the road trip back to the ferry.

We made it to the port in high spirits. Gave the dogs there well deserved dinner, plenty of water and treats! After all, without them we would not be able to compete!!

We finally got our dinner and a nice bottle of wine to celebrate a very successful week end! We got a great night's sleep in our very comfy cabins, woke up at and feeling very refreshed and ready for home!!

I had a great week end and Thank you very much Jenny and Margaret for an adventurous 2 days!!! And also a huge thank-you to Karina for the use of your van!!

Link to web album of Premier Groom -

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=51455&l=9e517&id=541972742>

Offical Photographer link

<http://gallery.me.com/robert.ashton#100034>

EDEMCO CABIN DRYER MODEL 500

I purchased this model a 1 ½ years ago. It is absolutely fantastic to own a cabin dryer. It saves a lot of time and is an impressive piece of equipment to have in your salon.

However; on this particular model, I have had problems with the **doors** and the **grate**. Also the **lack of waste trays** can be a nightmare.

Doors being the biggest concern. Doors: Plexiglas housed by steel frame and held on with bolts and nuts. There is an opening to accommodate a removable center divider. The edges of these doors are very sharp especially the center divider area.

Not realizing just how sharp the edges were, had one, **not so happy to be in there**, dog who cut his paw when scratching to get out.

Grate on the inside PVC coated started to come off approx two months after purchase.

Lack of waste trays, I feel, is a problem if two dogs are in there, because; if one of them **does the nasty deed**, which in my experience always happens, you have to get both dogs out and lift entire grate up to clean the area.

I have solved the problem with the sharp edges of the doors by fixing rubber strips along the edges and covering the bolts with rubber bolt domes.

I have also solved the waste tray problem by purchasing two large cookie trays with raised edges and have placed them under the grate at each side of the divider. HEY, they work for me.

In essence, cabin dryers are a great invention. I wouldn't be without one. As with most cabin dryers, the **Edemco 500 model** is pricey, so if I was in the market for another one I would definitely shop around making sure that the safety of our furry friends had been taken into account by the manufacturers.

Jeanette Vega
Ceasar's Palace
10

I find the Edemco dryer an extremely useful piece of Equipment. The advantages are that I can obviously get through much more dogs per day than if I had to hand dry every dog. The heat indicator and the timer allow for easy control over the device. It can be easily wiped down as there is no fan under where the dogs stand and it doesn't seem to be too heavy on power. It heats up the room in winter! The disadvantages are that the dogs aren't completely dry around the hind legs all the time and some have to be finished off with the hand dryer for 5 mins however I think that is a small sacrifice. Also If a dog pees sometimes it catches between the glass panes and can be hard to clean out. I would definitely not be without this dryer. it's definitely worth the money and allows you to earn more per day. If I were to buy again I would perhaps consider a stainless steel version for longevity.
Jean

What the Manufacturer says; sorry couldn't find a price!



Edemco Double Drying Cage

The Double Drying Cage dries more dogs in less time.

Electrical engineers say that a groomer using conventional dryers for an average of 5 hours a day can save up to \$800 a year in electrical bills alone by replacing them with Edemco's F500. The secret to the F500's energy-efficiency is the fact that it recirculates large volumes of warm air - saving energy by keeping the heat within the drying compartment. The F500's powerful motor moves an impressive 1,400 cubic feet of air per minute - enough to dry up to eight dogs an hour. And, since it uses moist, warm air - dogs stay comfortable (not to mention safer) while they dry. Includes a 60-minute automatic shut-off timer. And, as always, Edemco's safety features help keep your supervision time and labor costs to a minimum.

"Available in 220 volts"

Specifications:

- Temperature Control Switch
- Temperature-Humidity Gauge
- 60-Minute Automatic Shut-off Timer
- Removable Center Divider
- 3/8" Thick Clear Plexiglas Doors
- Removable Autoclavable PVC-Coated Floor Grill
- Grooming Arm
- Heavy-Duty 3" Ball Bearing Casters
- Dimensions: 60"W x 38 1/2"H x 24"D
- Motors: 1
- Motor: 1/4 HP
- Air Volume: 1400 CFM
- Volts: 115-120
- Heating Element: Unbreakable calrod 1900 watt
- Amps: 15
- Heat: Yes (72 - 95 Degrees F)
- Controls: Solid state variable heat control. Air flow control.
- Housing: 16/20 heavy gauge galvanized steel, electrostatically coated
- Cord: 8' heavy-duty grounded cord

Optional: Cat Divider, Vinyl Mat.
Shipping Weight: 320 lbs.