

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Dog Groomers

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**From:** Barbara Cole [mailto:barbarawcole@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:29 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Dog Groomers

Dear Commissioner Gerard,

When you meet on Thursday, please consider allowing dog groomers to operate. My dog needs regular grooming that I cannot do. Before she was shut down, my groomer, who works out of a condo, had set up a very safe procedure:

I would take the dog into a small fenced back yard, close the gate behind me, remove the dog's harness and collar. Then the groomer would let the dog in through a sliding glass window. We never were closer together than 10 feet. After the dog was groomed, I would return to the back yard, leave payment under a rock on a bench, the groomer would release the dog into the back yard, and I would put the collar and harness back on. This is a very safe procedure.

My groomer is in business for herself and is the single mother of a special needs child. Please allow her to continue her important work. I think it should count as essential.

Thank you for considering this request.

Barbara W. Cole  
4355 Brooker Creek Dr, Palm Harbor, FL 34685  
717-856-2726 (cell)

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Please reopen pet grooming businesses!

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**From:** ronda schuffman [mailto:scnutmegger@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Please reopen pet grooming businesses!

April 15, 2020

Dear Commissioner Gerard,

I know that the Commissioners and Sheriff Gualtieri are meeting tomorrow to discuss public safety issues and concerns in Pinellas County. I'm writing to you today to politely request that the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Gualtieri discuss and consider allowing pet grooming businesses to resume operating.

Just as it is imperative for the health of humans to bathe and to be free of matted hair and free of ragged, broken, unclean nails, it is imperative that animals also have clean skin, fur, and nails in order to maintain their health and overall physical condition. This is particularly important now more than ever, as many pet owners rely on their pets for companionship, exercise, and comfort during this high stress, anxiety causing pandemic. A pet that has matted fur or overgrown toenails cannot walk or move comfortably or safely.

In addition, many pet owners are elderly, ill, disabled, or suffer from seasonal allergies. Pets who venture outside often pick up seeds, pollen, burs, or other natural bits that can cause discomfort not only to the animal, but also to their humans, especially if the humans are unable to remove the allergens or bathe their pets. Any allergic response is an immune response...and can therefore weaken a person's immune system. This weakened immune system makes the human more susceptible to disease...and the Corona Virus!

Allowing pet grooming businesses to reopen would enhance the county's proactive approach to keeping the public safe.

In addition, it would support the many small, family/independently owned entrepreneurial grooming businesses that are the backbone of the local economy, and provide income for the groomers in their employ who have been laid off.

One such business is BARK LIFE in Seminole. I have been bringing my sweet natured double coated rescue Border Collie/Australian Shepherd Mix to BARK LIFE for a number of years for grooming. This family owned and run business has ALWAYS kept its retail, pet boarding, and pet grooming facilities immaculately clean. Since the beginning of the health advisories for businesses in the area, Tammy and Mike Vasquez, and Michael Jr, the owners, have followed every mandate to ensure the safety of not only their customers but also their employees and the animals that they care for in their pet day care.

They have instituted drive up social distancing drop off for the day care, and offer curbside pickup or free delivery for items purchased over the phone from their pet supply area.

Given the fact that BARK LIFE is already following mandated distancing, cleaning, and health advisories, and given the fact that my family's health and wellbeing includes the wellbeing of my four legged family member, I hope that you and the council will consider enhancing the County's approach to keeping the public safe by reopening pet grooming facilities in Pinellas County. I would think that the grooming facilities would welcome the opportunity to do business and would follow the mandates to protect the health of all those involved.

The physical and mental health of ALL the pet owners in Pinellas County depend on it!

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important issue, and thank you for your commitment and concern for the people of Pinellas County. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions (Or if you'd like me to send you a picture of our four legged girl Shaynah!)

Stay Safe!

Respectfully Yours,

*Ronda B. Decell*

Ronda B Decell

727-465-8341(c)

[scnutmegger@hotmail.com](mailto:scnutmegger@hotmail.com)

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Please vote Pet Groomers Essential.

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**From:** Marleen Dykhuis [mailto:marleen.dykhuis@nutritiouslifestyles.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:02 PM

**To:** Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Please vote Pet Groomers Essential.

Good day,

Pets suffer from issues that groomers provide the services for and owners cannot safely perform, especially nail trimming so they can walk, cutting hair that mats and pulls limiting mobility, anal glands etc.

They can do this with Social Distance.

Please vote Pet Groomers Essential.

Thank you.

### Marleen Dykhuis, MA, RD, LDN

Consultant Dietitian | Nutritious Lifestyles®

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## Bachteler, James J

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**From:** Comments, BCC Agenda  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller [mailto:noreply@mypinellasclerk.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:31 PM  
**To:** Comments, BCC Agenda <bccagendacomment@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:**

### Live Form

Topic Pet grooming

BCC Agenda Date 4-16-2020

Your Stand on the Issue Support

Comments Please immediately reinstate pet grooming in our county. It is important in many aspects for our pets health and could prove to be detrimental if not kept up with on a routine basis. Our pets are in many cases all any of us has. It would not be difficult to maintain social distancing while grooming services are performed. Thank you.

Citizen Name Lynda Rodriguez

Address 115 K Street  
Clearwater, FL 33759  
United States

Phone 727-5047646

Email [lgrod@hotmail.com](mailto:lgrod@hotmail.com)

## Bachteler, James J

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**From:** Comments, BCC Agenda  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller [mailto:noreply@mypinellasclerk.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:02 PM  
**To:** Comments, BCC Agenda <bccagendacomment@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:**

### Live Form

Topic Dog grooming

BCC Agenda Date 4-16-2020

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments I am a dog groomer and I'm writing to ask that you please allow pet grooming! I don't understand why my clients are having to go to surrounding counties that are allowing it and taking revenue from our county. If the salon is taking all precautions and all parties are willing to work then it should not be an issue. If any of you have pets than you should know this is an essential service for the well being of your pet.

Citizen Name David Anderson

Address 408 union st  
Dunedin, Florida 34698  
United States

Phone 931-2603130

Email [Designerdave87@yahoo.com](mailto:Designerdave87@yahoo.com)

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Please add groomers to essential list of businesses

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**From:** Bhende3653 [mailto:bhende3653@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:18 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Please add groomers to essential list of businesses

To whom it may concern,

Dog grooming should be added to the essential list of businesses. Many of our dogs have special needs and normal grooming is a part of most dog's lives. They need to have their ears cleaned and hair plucked, and their anal glands need attention. Dogs need to have the hair trimmed around their eyes to prevent infection. Maintaining their hair or fur can lead to matting and skin problems. Dog need to have their nails clipped on a regular schedule. These are services that need to be done by a trained groomer.

Many groomers were already complying with the guidelines of the CDC. My groomer never comes into contact with her clients. Please consider the wellbeing of our pets and add grooming service to the essential list.

Sincerely, Barbara Henderson

[bhende3653@aol.com](mailto:bhende3653@aol.com)

## Bachteler, James J

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**From:** Jeff Kellogg <jeffkellogg6965@1791.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:20 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat  
**Subject:** Pet grooming

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from Outside of the Organization. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Having worked in a kennel/grooming shop for the past 25 years, it is clear that pet grooming is a necessity. I have seen firsthand what happens to a pets coat without proper grooming. The matting can become so tight that it becomes suffocating to the skin beneath. At this point grooming can be a challenge and the pet might need to be sedated by a veterinarian in order for the coat to be removed, adding extra expenses . Regular grooming is healthy for pets.

Jeff Kellogg  
Kellogg's Kennel  
St Petersburg

Sent from my iPhone



## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Pinellas County Pet Grooming  
**Attachments:** PinellasCommissionersMeeting041620.pdf

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**From:** Craig Mitts [mailto:craig@groomobile.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:22 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Pinellas County Pet Grooming

Chairman Gerard:

I respectfully submit the attached recommendations for your consideration and for the consideration of the other Pinellas County Commissioners. If you, or any of the other Commissioners, have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me any time.

Craig Mitts  
727-458-4841 (direct)

Should the Pinellas County Commission reclassify pet grooming as an “Essential Service?” In a word, Yes. The most compelling reason to do so relates to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. This document provides a list of Essential Activities and a list of Essential Services. Essential Activities, Section 3A.,iii, includes “Taking care of pets.” Although pet grooming is a vital component of “Taking care of pets,” pet grooming businesses (including mobile and those co-located with pet retail stores) were classified as “Nonessential,” making it impossible for pet parents to properly care for their pets. Was that an oversight? No. Commissioners did their best to balance the safety of people and the care of pets. Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still with us - and so is our challenge: We must find a way to create a safe environment for customers and groomers, while fulfilling our obligation to care for the pets we all love. The fact is, you faced a similar challenge with restaurants. Folks wanted to eat out. So, you and leaders all over this nation, provided an option. High capacity, sit down, restaurants were, temporarily, closed in favor of delivery and curbside pick up. Was it a perfect solution? Compromises seldom are - but when Pinellas County residents get tired of home cooking, can they find just about any type of food they want? Yes. Your best solution to the pet grooming dilemma may follow similar logic. In America, there are only two ways to have pets commercially groomed: You can take your pet to a brick and mortar salon or you can have a mobile groomer come to your home. The problem is: They are not equally safe from the risks of Covid-19.

Ours is one of the few Florida grooming services that offer both salon and mobile pet grooming. Most of us, who offer both methods of grooming, would agree that mobile pet grooming exposes groomers and customers to far fewer Covid-19 health risks than salon pet grooming. Since Covid-19 and public safety are still considerations, we suggest that Commissioners, initially, consider opening Pinellas County to mobile grooming only. For safety reasons, you decided to close restaurants and to keep them closed, while allowing delivery and curbside pick up. Likewise, we recommend that you keep brick and mortar pet grooming salons closed, while allowing mobile grooming services to provide curbside grooming. Following are details of the logic behind our recommendation to permit mobile groomers to provide a much needed, and much safer, service to Pinellas County pet parents until the risks of Covid-19 subside:

- 1) Pet grooming salons, typically, employ multiple groomers and provide them with small work areas. Their tables are seldom 6 feet apart and, since they must share/compete for salon resources, like bath tubs, cages, dryers, cash registers, credit card machines, etc, groomers are often forced to be in very close proximity to one another. It would be virtually impossible for groomers, in a multi groomer salon, to conform to “social distancing” standards at all times. In addition to the difficulty for groomers/employees to practice “social distancing” in a multi groomer salon, we must, also, consider customer safety. In multi groomer salons, customers must park in a common parking area (occupied by other customers,) walk their dogs in common “wetting areas,” (occupied by other customers,) enter a building (occupied by multiple groomers/employees) and wait in a lobby (occupied by other customers.) In most multi groomer salons, neither customers nor groomers/employees will be able to comply with “social distancing” and all other CDC guidelines. Therefore, they should not be allowed to reopen at this time.
- 2) Some Florida grooming salons are, however, operated by a single groomer. Since there are no other groomers in the building and since they have a reduced, and controllable, flow of customers in and out of the building, these single groomer salons can comply with “social distancing” and all other CDC guidelines. Therefore, pet grooming salons, operated by a single groomer, should be allowed to reopen, immediately.
- 3) Mobile grooming is very different from both multi groomer salons and single groomer salons. Mobile grooming is a curbside service. Customers never leave their homes. Instead, the groomer goes to each customer’s door. There, they maintain “social distancing” by utilizing “extension grippers” to receive leashed dogs. They, then, carry or walk pets to a mobile grooming van or trailer. Mobile groomers perform the entire grooming service in an environment where there are never any other people. Mobile grooming is a one dog - one groomer process. In addition to all the other considerations, mobile grooming is often the only service available for the disabled and those who are unable to drive. Mobile groomers can comply with “social distancing” and all other CDC guidelines. Therefore, all mobile pet grooming services should be allowed to reopen, immediately.

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Groomers

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Reimer [mailto:purr1b@mac.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:57 PM  
To: Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
Subject: Groomers

CAUTION:

This message has originated from Outside of the Organization. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

So essential ... groomer can come to car, get dog, return dog the same way and you're on you way with a dog who can now see and doesn't smell! Especially essential if the dog in question doesn't allow her human to brush her!

Linda Reimer  
purr1b@mac.com  
It is what it is!

Sent from my iPad

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: [BULK] Please reclassify pet groomers as ESSENTIAL

**Importance:** Low

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**From:** Sherry Rice [mailto:sherrybaby888@icloud.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:02 AM

**To:** Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** [BULK] Please reclassify pet groomers as ESSENTIAL

**Importance:** Low

Hello,

I hope this email makes it to your Inbox before tonight's vote! I just want to simply please ask you to reclassify pet groomers as ESSENTIAL. I know this may not seem like a big deal, but for dogs who need regular grooming, and their owners, this truly is essential. Failure to groom dogs regularly can have serious health consequences. Without grooming, fleas and ticks can flourish. Mats around the hind end can cause an accumulation of feces. Finally, matted fur can cause bacterial and yeast infections to form.

Yes, people can wash their own pets as well as trim their fur and nails. However, if they have never done this before it could be nearly impossible for them to start doing it now. On top of that, many pet owners are not physically able to groom their pets.

Grooming can easily be done following, even exceeding, COVID 19 guidelines.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sherry Rice

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: dog grooming is essential

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**From:** the dana [mailto:kungpow108@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:19 AM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** dog grooming is essential

dear government people

please vote to make DOG GROOMING a ESSENTIAL SERVICE. We can do it and still social distance so humans are not at risk and dogs get cared for. I am a groomer and need desperately to get back to work safely and lots of dogs really need care.

please please please let me work. like tomorrow

thanks

dana spaniel

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Pet groomers

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**From:** Voula Papas [mailto:voulaath72@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:29 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Pet groomers

A Pet groomer is essential to the Health of my dog. Without the groomer my dog would get a skin infection that would cost me extra vet visits and possibility of death.

Please, please vote for Pet Groomers to be ESSENTIAL.

THANK YOU

Val Townsend

## **Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Vote yes for dog groomers

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**From:** Stan Arthur [mailto:stanarthur@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:38 AM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Vote yes for dog groomers

Greetings! I'm the creator and admin of the I Love St. Pete Facebook group with more than 54,000 (mostly) local members. I can tell you that there is huge support for allowing dog groomers to go back to work. I truly appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

### **Stan Arthur**

Filmmaker/Video Production Specialist

Best Director - Docufest Atlanta 2013

Best Documentary - Treasure Coast Film Festival 2013

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Essential grooming

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**From:** PatriciaCalvertSavvyTraveler [mailto:savvytraveler@juno.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:43 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Re: Essential grooming

Why is there even a question? ***OF COURSE*** keeping your pets clean and groomed is AS NECESSARY as keeping the human body clean...and there is far less hair on humans that can contain pathogens !

Good grief, people.

Patricia Calvert



**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Please designate Grooming Establishments as Essential Service

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**From:** Caroline Cope [mailto:carotris@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:51 PM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Please designate Grooming Establishments as Essential Service

As a Patron of Grooming Establishments in PINELLAS COUNTY, I am writing this to ask you to re-consider and designate PET GROOMING as a essential service in Pinellas County, re: Safer at Home Guidance, executive order 20-91 April 3, 2020.

Pet groomers are essential for animal health, which directly affects human health.

Pet grooming prevents and often eliminates the infestation of fleas, ticks for example which are extremely common in Florida. Ticks can carry Lyme disease which is not only transmitted to the pet but to their owners, as well if an undetected tick transfers to the owner. Fleas can cause worms and other infections as well. Mats can develop in many breeds if not groomed regularly, which can lead to skin infections, sores and a number of health issues. Leaving a pet matted is considered a form of abuse. I understand most owners are able to care for their pets grooming needs but many, such as the elderly, a large demographic in Pinellas County, CANNOT.

Pet groomers are easily able to perform their job without coming into direct contact with owners and can maintain recommended CDC guidelines, as many groomers already had limited or no contact with owners prior to the pandemic.

Veterinarians are caring for our animals successfully by retrieving and returning pets from and to a vehicle, I feel pet groomers can easily operate in a similar manner. Owners of pets could also arrive and place their pet in a holding area separate from any other persons, observing the six to eight foot social distancing practice as well as being the only one in the area, proper cleaning procedures could be done upon the owners departure. Pick up, could be observed in a similar manner with payment done over the phone or electronically.

By the nature of the business, groomers already practice many of the guidelines recommended by the CDC, for example sanitizing their tables, crates and equipment between pet grooming, wearing protective masks and garments.

I ask Pinellas County commissioners to add PET GROOMING to their list of essential services immediately.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Cope

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Animal Groomer's Concern

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**From:** Cameron Crowson [mailto:cccrowso@eckerd.edu]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:35 PM

**Subject:** Animal Groomer's Concern

To whom it may concern:

I am the child of a dog groomer. My mother has wondered why dog grooming is not deemed essential. If grooming clients miss a 4 to 6-week appointment, the dog could become matted; their nails can become overgrown and it can hurt the animal to walk. Research from the ASPCA has suggested that, "severe hair mats can grow so tightly that they can restrict or cut off blood circulation, which can eventually require amputation." Moreover, a pet care specialist from the ASPCA stated, "...animals, especially those with long hair, suffer when they aren't maintained or regularly groomed." From the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), they have stated that some side effects to not grooming your animal are very expensive vet bills and aggressive behavior from the animal.

As for what a dog grooming specialist can do, they can help with issues dealing with locating cysts, bad skin conditions, and relieving problems that lead to ear infections; grooming your animal can regularly help with fleas and ticks (on the animal and inside the animal's domain). As well as, helping to relieve strain from animal defecation/feces – by way of helping the dog to release their anal glands. Research has shown from a veterinarian, that anal gland issues can cause (a) chronic skin infections, (b) skin mite infestations, (c) food hypersensitivities, (d) atopic dermatitis, (e) overweight or obese animals and (f) hypothyroidism.

As for the social distancing guidelines, dog groomers tend to book by appointment (they space their appointments out to where only one customer is in a building at a time).

Thank you for your time,

Cameron C. Crowson, PhD(c), Ed.S – IDT

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Essential Businesses

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**From:** Karen Falconer [mailto:Karen.Falconer@usccg.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:41 PM

**To:** Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Essential Businesses

Hello,

I understand there will be a vote on dog groomers and other essential business. I won't go into a long diatribe about how I think there are many essential businesses that are NOT open right now. There are safe ways to limit contact, etc. and it is very frustrating.

Anyway, I wanted to ask you to consider dog groomers essential business. I have an older dog who if she is not groomed, will result in health issues and she is older and scared and I would NOT be able to do this myself. The people that groom her are pros. I am also certain that during these times, I would not need to come in contact with the dog groomer at all. I could drop her at the door, they could take her and groom her and put her back in my car, as they would at any store or restaurant with a package. I could pay online. And I want to be clear that I AM NOT a dog groomer. I only want to plead with anyone with reason to really think about decisions we are making. Please consider this wise decision and I would also love if there would be rational thought given to other businesses that could reopen before we completely destroy the lives of millions of Pinellas county residents. ALL lives are precious including the millions struggling right now. Thank you.

Karen Falconer

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: [BULK] Pet groomers

**Importance:** Low

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**From:** Kate Grow [mailto:kategrowrealtor@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:59 PM

**To:** Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** [BULK] Pet groomers

**Importance:** Low

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to explain why dog/pet groomers status should immediately be changed to "essential" business in Pinellas County.

1. Under Governor DeSantis' Emergency Order 20-19, Section 3(iii), it expressly states "taking care of your pet" as an essential activity. A vital part of taking care of one's pet, includes proper grooming. This goes beyond just bathing to keep sickness and infections away.

) My pup needs his nails trimmed every 4-6 weeks to prevent them from getting embedded into their paws or damaging the quick. I have never trimmed my dogs nails as he's only a year and a had old I've depended on his groomer to safely do this for me. Vets usually charge an exam fee of \$50-100 while my groomer offers this a la carte service for only \$10-20.

) Long-haired dogs become matted easily without proper brushing and most owners cannot safely remove these mats on their own without the use of costly professional tools and special training to avoid cutting the dog with the sharp razors. Mats that are not removed tighten to the skin causing pain, then pull away from the coat causing bald spots. The fur may never grow back in these areas.

The grooming industry can easily adapt their practices to comply with CDC Guidelines.

Pet grooming is not the same as human hair salons. Pet owners cannot safely perform these services at home and risk potential dog bites, emergency vet services, trauma to our animals, and it puts our pets' health at serious risk. Not to mention that many cannot bend down for long periods of time, lift their pets onto tables or into the bathtub, or even have the special tools to perform proper services at home.

For the reasons described above, grooming is a VITAL service and not a luxury. It is extremely important, given the quarantine is expected to last beyond the standard 4-6 week grooming cycle, that the Pinellas County Board vote to re-categorize these pet grooming businesses as "essential".

I appreciate you taking the time to listen to your constituents' concerns addressing the current "non-essential" status of dog/pet groomers under the county's emergency order for COVID-19.

Thank you!

Kate Grow, Realtor with Charles Rutenberg Realty

And Dog Mom of 16 month old Aussie Dogtor Dre who loves and misses his groomer!

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Thank you!

Kate Grow, Realtor

Charles Rutenberg Realty

Cell 727-667-4670

## Bachteler, James J

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**From:** Gwen Hartwell <pbamom@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth  
**Subject:** Essential grooming

**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from Outside of the Organization. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Please reconsider grooming essential. My dog is shaggy and nails are long. Untrimmed Dogs can affect skin conditions. Untrimmed nails causes the vein to grow longer and is very dangerous. Then when future cutting is done it is easier to cut the vein and cause the dog discomfort.

Please reconsider, we could do curbside drop off and pick up. We can pay by phone.

Thank you

Gwen Hartwell Largo, Florida

Sent from my iPhone

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: [BULK] Please Vote Dog Groomers Essential

**Importance:** Low

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**From:** Milo & Stefanie Do FL [mailto:birdwhistlesunshine@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:42 PM

**To:** anetCLong@pinellascounty.org; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** [BULK] Please Vote Dog Groomers Essential

**Importance:** Low

Hello, I live in 33704.

My boyfriend and I strongly feel you should vote that dog groomers are essential employees. There are several breeds of dogs who require grooming for their health and well-being.

In addition, due to the nature of dog grooming businesses and their natural structure, they can easily adapt their practices to fit the COVID-19 policies with limited contact during drop offs and pick ups and facial mask wearing.

Lastly, a portion of the older population with dogs cannot physically groom their own dogs. We have seen so much suffering already, so much lost, let's not let man's best friend be one more thing lost due to this pandemic.

Please vote to keep dog groomers essential.

Thank you for your time!

Stefanie Hinton and Milo Hatch

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Please make groomer necessary

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**From:** urcinnamongirl58 [mailto:urcinnamongirl58@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:03 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Please make groomer necessary

My poor havanese dog is suffering. I'm disabled and unable to do anything more than brush him. I tried but can not trim him myself. His hair is so long his feces is sticking in his hair when he goes poo. His hair is growing over his eyes and I have to soak them daily to keep them from shutting closed because of irritation. I tried to trim his hair but almost poked his eye out.

Vets are able to handle social distancing. Groomers do the same. You can even limit services to those dogs with the needed maintenance once every 6 weeks. I wasn't able to make the last appt before they closed being very ill due to influenza A. So my dog is suffering, and its very painful for me to try and clean off his hind end. Please please please allow groomers to follow social distancing while still being able to groom these animals. Its distressing to me to watch him suffer.

Thank you for your compassionate consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Howard  
6298 20th St S  
St Petersburg FL 33712

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.



## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Pet Grooming needs to be re-classified as ESSENTIAL!

**Importance:** Low

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**From:** Marianne Kearnes [mailto:mkearnes@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 5:14 PM  
**Subject:** [BULK] Pet Grooming needs to be re-classified as ESSENTIAL!  
**Importance:** Low

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to explain why dog/pet groomers status should immediately be changed to “essential” business in Pinellas County.

1. Under Governor DeSantis' Emergency Order 20-19, Section 3(iii), it expressly states “taking care of your pet” as an essential activity. A vital part of taking care of one’s pet, includes proper grooming. This goes beyond just bathing to keep sickness and infections away.

My dogs need their nails trimmed every 4-6 weeks to prevent them from getting embedded into their paws or damaging the quick. While I can do this myself for the youngest dog, my oldest will only let the same groomer he has seen over the last 10 years handle this. I know many other pet owners in the same predicament. Vets usually charge an exam fee of \$50-100 while my groomer offers this a la carte service for only \$10-20.

Both of my dogs require proper brushing, de-shedding, and combing in order to prevent painful hot spots, balding, and possible yeast infections. Veterinarians are not trained on proper grooming techniques and do not offer these basic services.

Dogs become more susceptible to flea and tick infestations without proper grooming and most rely on their groomers to keep that risk low.

My Mini Schnauzer is one of the many dog breeds that grow hair in their ears that need to be removed, trimmed, and cleaned. We have already gone weeks without grooming and I can already smell the yeast and bacteria growing. It's not safe as it leads to itching, pain, discomfort, closed ear canals, and at worst, deafness. Veterinarians are not trained on proper grooming techniques and do not offer these basic services.

Long-haired dogs become matted easily without proper brushing and most owners cannot safely remove these mats on their own without the use of costly professional tools and special training to avoid cutting the dog with the sharp razors. Mats that are not removed tighten to the skin causing pain, then pull away from the coat causing bald spots. The fur may never grow back in these situations.

Many owners have senior pets that make home grooming virtually impossible. My groomer has been in business 20 years working mostly with senior pets, like my own. We depend on our groomer to assist senior dogs that cannot stand on their own, shake uncontrollably, are at risk for seizures, are now blind or deaf, and are just generally very difficult to groom. Vets offer “Sedation” grooms for dogs like this IF they can pass a fitness test (most don't) and are extremely costly (over \$100 not including exam fees), not to mention considered unsafe for most senior dogs.

2. The grooming industry can easily adapt their practices to comply with CDC Guidelines. Before the Pinellas County restrictions, at Barks and Recreation, Inc, (the pet boarding, daycare, and grooming facility where my dogs are a customer), they quickly and easily put safe CDC procedures into practice. They stopped allowing customers

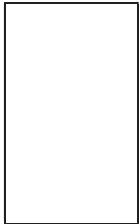
into the lobby, offered drive-thru or mobile grooming service to limit contact and exposure, separated each grooming station by 6 feet, and sterilized after every client, and their hands are ALWAYS washed.

3. Pet grooming is not the same as human hair salons. Pet owners cannot safely perform these services at home and risk potential dog bites, emergency vet services, trauma to our animals, and it puts our pets' health at serious risk. Not to mention that many cannot bend down for long periods of time, lift their pets onto tables or into the bathtub, or even have the special tools to perform proper services at home.

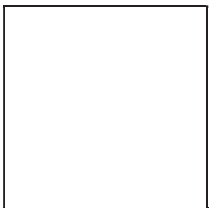
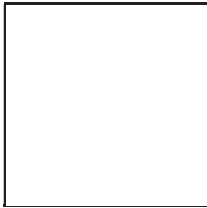
For the reasons described above, grooming is a VITAL service and not a luxury. It is extremely important, given the quarantine is expected to last beyond the standard 4-6 week grooming cycle, that the Pinellas County Board vote to re-categorize these pet grooming businesses as "essential".

I appreciate you taking the time to listen to your constituents' concerns addressing the current "non-essential" status of dog/pet groomers under the county's emergency order for COVID-19.

Best regards,



**Marianne Kearnes**  
Independent Powur Consultant  
727-484-5286  
[www.powur.com/marianne.kearnes](http://www.powur.com/marianne.kearnes)



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail!

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: dog grooming is essential

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**From:** Linda Larsen [mailto:dragonlady2020@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:38 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** dog grooming is essential

I'm not sure if you're a pet owner and if you're not, I'd like to point out to you why dog grooming is very essential.

1. A dog's nails need to be kept trimmed. If they are not, the quik inside of the nail grows out as the nail grows and when the nails are finally trimmed the quik will move back slowly, but this will take time. If a dog's nails are left too long they can rip the nail off and in some cases the toe needs amputation. If the nail is cut too short the quik will bleed.

2. Many breeds require hair to plucked from the inner ear. If this is not done it can cause ear infections from the ears not being able to breath and retaining moisture in them.

3. You can brush your dog and think the dog has no mats or knots in the hair. If a dog that requires clipping is not groomed every 4-6 weeks they can easily get matted, especially in tender places like under the arms and in the groin area. If a matt gets too embedded it needs to be cut out and the dog could get cut easily in these particular areas.

4. Many hairy dogs require the hair to be trimmed around the annus. If not feces gets stuck and embedded in the fur and dries on the fur. This is not healthy for our home environment or for the animal.

5. When grooming a dog many problems can be discovered. A dog could have a tick embedded in it's skin. If you have ever experienced a tick infestation in your home, they are not an easy thing to get rid of. They reproduce in droves. One tick can cause a huge problem. They can also cause and infection on the animal. A tumor can be discovered. It could just be fatty or cancerous.

I am asking to please consider how important grooming is. It's not just giving a dog a bath. The animal could be placed in a carrier and picked up the same way. Payment could be made over the phone with a credit card or by check to the groomer. Please think about how important this is for the animal's sake.

Linda Larsen

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Pet Grooming is an Essential Service

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**From:** Aussie Pet Mobile [mailto:jmackenzie@aussiepetmobile.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:20 AM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Pet Grooming is an Essential Service

Dear Commissioner Gerard,

I am writing to you, to explain why a Mobile Pet Grooming business, that maintains social distancing qualifies as an essential business. As further explained below we are a service provider that benefits the health and welfare of pets and their families and are able to provide grooming services with No Contact in complete compliance with CDC Social Distancing guidelines. Also crucial are the statements from both CDC and WHO that there is no evidence that pets can transmit this virus.

**Let me start by saying that everybody needs to practice CDC, WHO and NHI mandated Social Distancing.** This is the most important thing that we as responsible citizens can do to help flatten the curve so that we can put this virus behind us. Within these necessary practices, we also need to take steps to protect and care for our vulnerable pets. Aussie Pet Mobile, with our NO CONTACT grooming service, carefully adheres to Social Distancing guidelines while continuing to provide essential and critical care for pets that protects our vulnerable pets and maintains safety for humans as well.

Let's look briefly at why **Mobile Pet Grooming** is all about providing an essential service.

- Both the CDC and WHO have stated that there is no evidence that companion animals (dogs and cats) can transmit COVID-19. However, there are several diseases than can be life threatening to
- humans which can be transmitted by pets. Regular Grooming can either prevent these diseases, eliminate the root causes, or in some cases may reveal a disease that would otherwise stay
- hidden until pets or their owners are endangered. When we are all confined to our homes, we are constantly around our pets and this increases the potential for exposure. Our citizens need an
- option for their pet care that will allow them to safely practice Social Distancing. I attach a link to a video that explains how we proceed.<https://vimeo.com/405316386>
  
- Ringworm is highly contagious to humans and nearly impossible for a pet owner to see or diagnose. Grooming can reveal this dangerous parasite so that a pet owner can get the treatment needed for their pet and also for every member of their family exposed to the pet.
  
- This is the kickoff of Flea season nationwide. Pets can easily pick up fleas when they go outside or on a walk (actions that cannot be stopped). Fleas are extremely prolific and in no time at all, fleas can infest a home. **Fleas can transmit several diseases that are very dangerous to humans.** Grooming can eliminate fleas on pets and help pet owners with this problem.

- This is also the kickoff of Tick season. Ticks can spread several life-threatening diseases to humans most notably Lyme disease which poses a major health implication. Grooming can eliminate these ticks safely.
- Matted Cats with feces and or urine in or on their coats can expose children and especially pregnant women to potentially life-threatening conditions like Toxic-Plasmodia.
- If pets are not regularly groomed to prevent the passing of very real and dangerous diseases that can impact human pet owners, those owners could be forced to leave the shelter of their homes and seek medical attention which could expose them and their families to COVID-19. Pet Grooming can help prevent that. Being proactive now can help prevent dangerous situations down the road. Pet grooming is essential.
- This is the beginning of coat-blowing and major pet shedding season. Grooming can provide immediate relief and eliminate shedding and matted coats.
- Shedding can adversely affect anybody with allergies or sensitivity to pet hair and dander. Millions of pet owners nationwide are impacted by this. If a human is badly impacted by shedding hair and dander, it could bring on respiratory issues that could force that pet owner to seek medical attention and expose them and their families to COVID-19. Grooming can prevent that.
- Severely matted pets are in a significant amount of pain. Home washing of a pet will only make this matting (which is extremely common in cats and dogs) worse and more severe. Additionally, there is a real chance for hotspots to form if a matted pet is bathed at home by a pet owner and not professionally and completely dried by a high-powered pet dryer. Hot spots can lead to staff-infections in pets and make a pet extremely uncomfortable. Grooming can immediately and safely eliminate this condition.
- Pets with severely matted coats (dogs and cats) can hide sores or infections that if left untreated could prove very dangerous to these pets and in some cases to the families that own them. Grooming will quickly and safely reveal these conditions so they can be dealt with.
- Mobile Pet Grooming is essential because we can stop people from having to leave their homes to seek grooming for their pets. We can safely groom their pets without having any contact with another human. Mobile Grooming is the epitome of Social Distancing.

- Groomers are often the first line of defense for spotting significant and life-threatening healthy issues in pets such as tumors that owners are never aware of.
- Mobile Pet Groomers provide a safe and essential service to our first responders to care for their pets and help prevent issues that could keep a first responder from being able to work.
- Mobile Pet Groomers can safely care for service pets, emotional support pets, guide dogs, therapy dogs, seizure alert service pets and, of course, K-9 specialty pets.

These are just a few of the reasons that grooming in general and Mobile Pet Grooming specifically provide an essential service to pets and their owners that should be allowed and encouraged.

From the very start of the COVID-19 pandemic Aussie Pet Mobile professional groomers immediately put our NO CONTACT grooming protocols into practice. These actions allow our groomers to provide essential service to pets and their owners while maintaining every aspect of Social Distancing and all steps necessary to maintain safety.

- We contact our clients prior to each appointment to review our NO CONTACT service rules and to ensure that nobody in the household is symptomatic of COVID-19. If a pet owner is symptomatic then we will postpone and reschedule the appointment until after any quarantine is over.
- When the groomer arrives at the home, they will wash their hands with soap and water and prepare the tub and our proprietary Hydrobath system with soap and water to be ready for the pet.
- The groomer calls the client, gets any necessary instructions and asks them to either tether the pet on the porch and go back inside, or to put a leash/lead onto the pet and put the pet on the porch while holding the leash/lead at a distance of 6 feet or more. The groomer will either retrieve the pet from where they are tethered or will use their own lead to gather up the pet while maintaining at least 6 feet of separation from the pet owner. If an owner cannot or will not follow these directions the groomer will not violate Social Distancing protocols and the appointment will be canceled. No exceptions.
- The groomer puts the pet directly into the tub and washes them with soap and water to immediately eliminate the virus. Even though the WHO and CDC have stated there is no evidence that pets can transmit COVID-19, this is an added precaution to ensure everybody remains safe.
- After the groom is completed, the groomer reverses the process and returns the pet to the porch and immediately alerts the pet owner so they can retrieve their pet.

- Groomers will call the pet owner to collect payment by phone or via our gift certificate or other methods that eliminate the need for any direct contact.
- The groomer then returns to the mobile salon and immediately washes their hands. Then, using our veterinary hospital rated disinfectant they will treat every part of the mobile salon that the pet touched.

Pets are 100% dependent on their families for everything they need. They need food and water. They need affection and human contact and attention. They do not understand the impact of a global pandemic. They depend on their owners for their healthcare needs. They can't tell us when something is not right. Aussie Pet Mobile can safely provide grooming services for pets that will help keep them clean, healthy and safe. This is essential for our pets and for all the humans that live together with them.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Julian Mackenzie  
Aussie Pet Mobile - Tampa Bay  
(727) 741-7612

[www.petgroomingtampabay.com](http://www.petgroomingtampabay.com)

**"Keep 'em Clean and Cute!"**



**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: [BULK]

**Importance:** Low

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**From:** Michele Maro [mailto:queensno1fan@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:23 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** [BULK]

**Importance:** Low

Please, dog grooming needs to be essential. My dog's nails are so long and I can't do it myself. He has skin conditions and needs regular grooming--  
Michele Maro

May the force be with you



**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Dog Grooming is Essential

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**From:** Stacey Moon [mailto:smoon5402@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:16 PM

**To:** Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Dog Grooming is Essential

Good Afternoon,

I hope this email finds you all well. I am writing to you as I know that the Pinellas County Commissioner Board will be voting on Thursday whether to reclassify Dog Groomers as essential workers.

Our dog groomer is very essential to us but some of the main reasons why they should be deemed essential are the following: If they are not deemed essential, it can be months before dogs can be groomed again. Without dog groomers, dogs can become matted to the skin, riddled with hot spots, their nails can become embedded in their pads, their ears can become infected with yeast and they can become infested with fleas. Dog grooming is actually beneficial to the dogs health.

And since Gov. DeSantis has now deemed WWE as essential, I am sure that you can all agree that dog groomers are essential too. There is no reason that they cannot be open as long as they are following the guidelines. My groomer made it so that there was contactless drop off and pick up.

Thank you for your time and I hope you all have a wonderful day!

-Stacey Moon

Mommy to a fur baby who needs her groomer. :)

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Questions regarding essential businesses

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**From:** Lauren Muse [mailto:laurenmuse85@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:54 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Questions regarding essential businesses

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you to ask that you please reconsider dog grooming as a non-essential business. While I understand this may not be essential to some, or perhaps in the opinion of the County, it is an important necessity to some. I personally am not able to groom my dog at home and the cleanliness of my pet is very important to me and to the health of the animal. In the past week I have noticed that the liquor store, vape shop, bakery and coffee/cigar shop are all open and considered essential. From my understanding they come in contact with many more individuals than my dog groomer. My groomer prior to being shut down operated as curbside only; when I arrive at the groomer, they come to my car and take my dog, so I never have to go in the shop or get out of the car. Once they are finished and I arrive back at the shop they bring my dog back out to my car and I call with my credit card information. This process is exactly like my vet's office. I know that you are concerned about the spread of the virus, and so I am, but I would appreciate if you would reconsider what businesses are essential and non-essential, giving consideration to the capabilities of individuals to perform these needs themselves, and the importance in this case of the animals these services are provided to. Thank you!

Lauren Muse  
Palm Harbor  
770-301-0706

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Please open up dog grooming!!

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**From:** Ralph Neuberger [mailto:neuberger26@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:56 AM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Please open up dog grooming!!

I saw on the news that the Pinellas County Commission is voting on Thursday to reconsider dog grooming as essential. I sincerely hope you all vote YES on this issue. I have two dogs that require frequent and regular grooming or their coats become very matted. I do my best to brush them daily, but it's difficult for me as I have arthritis in my hands. I also cannot clip or trim their nails or properly clean out their ears. My girl was recently treated for an ear infection which was very costly, simply because my schedule didn't allow me to get her in for a grooming. If grooming remains shut down much longer I fear I may be facing similar issues with both of my dogs.

I am a lifelong resident of Pinellas County. I love it here. We are facing unprecedented times and I don't envy the position you all are in. However, as a pet owner, I respectfully BEG you to allow grooming services to open back up - for the sake of the animals.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Neuberger III

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Grooming Necessity!  
**Attachments:** FB\_IMG\_1585418765628.jpg; FB\_IMG\_1585241594221.jpg

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**From:** Tammi O'Neill [mailto:tammioneill7@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:25 AM  
**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Grooming Necessity!

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Tammi O'Neill <tammioneill7@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 14, 2020, 10:10 AM  
**Subject:**  
**To:** <pgerard@pinellascounty.org>

Good Morning,

I would like to ask if you can please open up grooming for essential business for animals.

I have 3 rescue doggies, who are my life and my children!

Please... I'm begging you to allow groomers to open up. They are all sick and have skin issues, necessitating a HUGE need for them to be groomed.

I feel that by banning groomers (who actually do not have high human traffic and their appointments are spaced out), is doing a total unsanitary disgrace to our animals!

They are our family and are not the same as humans! They easily mat, will develop skin infections and anal gland infections if not groomed properly and appropriately! Our vets do not groom and are already overworked right now to be bringing our pets in for nail clipping and anal gland expressions!

This is Not fair to our furry family members! My dogs are all rescued and have serious underlying health issues requiring grooming a necessity, not a leisure!

PLEASE... My groomer wants to work! As, many do because this is taking away from their families that they support and rescues cannot get the proper skin treatment for their many many rescues that they save without having their groomers around!

This is truly animal cruelty, especially for my dogs which require monthly grooming!

. please... Please... Reconsider closing down our Pinellas County Groomers!

I am also a disabled Veteran and this really adds to my undue stress and PTSD, especially since one of my rescue babies is also my service doggie!

I feel as if my animals and my service doggie are truly being discriminated against and treated inhumanely!

They need to please open up our Pinellas County Groomers!

P.S.\*\*\* How can you just let my recent rescue baby! The last one into Florida from Texas, go without what he needs for his severe skin condition! He's just a baby at only 15 weeks old! Saved from being dumped with 9 others at an old burnt down abandoned house in Texas!

V/r,

Tammi O'Neill

**Bachteler, James J**

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**Subject:** FW: Pet Grooming is An Essential Service

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**From:** Michele Ramos [mailto:mramos048@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:51 AM

**To:** Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Peters, Kathleen <kpeters@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>; rgaultier@pcsonet.org

**Cc:** Tammy vasquez <tammy@barklife.com>

**Subject:** Pet Grooming is An Essential Service

Dear Pinellas County Officials,

My name is Michele Ramos I am a dog groomer who has been working in the industry for over 15 years. I work for Tammy and Mike Vasquez at Bark Life Market and More in Seminole. I am writing to request that you all consider changing pet grooming to an essential business. Regular grooming is vital for the health of dogs and cats, there are many painful skin conditions that can arise if pets are not kept on their normal grooming schedules. We are fully capable of complying with social distancing and the necessary hygiene practices to help stop the spread of the covid-19 virus. With curbside drop off and pick up, as well as pay by phone or online options, our pet parents can safely use our services to ensure the ongoing health and safety of their pets. Thank you for your time and consideration. I think you all are doing an amazing job during all of this.

Sincerely, Michele Ramos

P Gerard  
Pinellas County Commission

I am writing this letter to ask you to PLEASE keep open or re-open dog grooming salons in Pinellas County and list them as an ESSENTIAL Business!

Personally, I have a standard poodle, Lucy. She is bathed, ears cleaned, brushed, blown dry, nails trimmed and hair (not fur) groomed every four weeks. Poodles do not shed so this process is essential. If this process is not done their hair tends to attract much dirt, debris, and foreign matter. The longer their hair gets the more tangled it becomes and a solid mat will eventually result. Not good!

My groomer, Greg Chayet of Palm Harbor Grooming is especially careful about social distancing guidelines. When I brought my poodle to the shop three weeks ago he had called ahead and asked me to stay outside if anyone was already inside the salon waiting room. We stayed six feet apart and he took, Lucy, into the shop himself.

So please let this essential business stay open, not for Greg but for the dogs he cares about and treats like family! Thank you from Lucy and I and all dogs in the county that wonderful groomers take care of, that lots of senior citizens and the elderly are unable to do - Keeping our pets healthy, clean and happy!

Sincerely,

Linda Roth  
2117 Swan Ln  
Safety Harbor FL 34695

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Pet Groomers as Essential Business

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**From:** Deborah Schmidt [mailto:dschmidt134@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:26 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Pet Groomers as Essential Business

Dear Chairwoman Pat Gerard,

As we all know, grooming is an essential aspect of keeping our dogs healthy. Taking care of our pets has already been deemed an essential activity by Governor Ron DeSantis, and grooming is a vital part of taking care of them.

“Grooming is as important as bringing your pet to the vet for regular checkups,” says Lauren Lakritz, an Animal Care Technician in the ASPCA’s Animal Recovery Center (ARC) and a certified professional groomer. “It’s maintaining the well-being of your animal.” Good groomers don’t just cut for beauty; they look for signs of trouble beneath the furry surface. “A groomer may discover health issues before you know they exist, including cysts, bad skin conditions, and ear infections—all of which can hide under fur,” adds Lauren. For example, matted hair can progress quickly from causing mild skin irritation to infecting wounds. Fleas and ticks can live relatively invisibly in a hair mat.

In an American Kennel Club article written by Melody Schamble, on Aug. 5, 2016, titled “Why It’s Worth Having Your Dog Groomed Professionally”, she states the following:

A professional grooming session typically consists of the dog being brushed, bathed and dried, as well as trimmed or clipped. The groomer brushes or combs out mats before the bath, making it easier to lather the dog with shampoo. They clean the dog’s ears to remove buildup and to check for signs of infection. When the dog’s coat has dried, he will be trimmed, clipped, or shaved, if needed or requested. Be sure to clearly communicate your requests or concerns to your groomer, and your precious pooch will look great by the time he’s done. Groomers trim most dogs over the eyes, at the tips of the ears, and on the bottoms of the feet. They cut the dog’s nails to a comfortable length, as long nails can become painful for a dog, especially when he’s walking. Professional groomers have all the right tools to get your dog looking his best, from different kinds of clippers to an adjustable grooming table. They are equipped with shampoos for dogs with skin allergies, irritations, fleas and ticks, or for dogs that got sprayed by a skunk.

In an article on COVID-19 in humans, updated April 12, 2020, the American Veterinary medical association included the following on the transmission of COVID-19:

“Smooth (non-porous) surfaces (e.g., countertops, doorknobs) transmit viruses better than porous materials (e.g., paper money, pet fur). At this time, there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread to people from the skin or fur of pets”. <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/covid-19-humans>

As the owner of 2 poodles, who require monthly grooming, I urge you to designate pet groomers as an essential business, which it is for the health of our pets. I know some business owners have expressed concern for the safety of their employees, and they certainly have the option of keeping their businesses closed. But most groomers completely understand the necessity of regular grooming of pets, so please allow them to reopen. Thank you for your time and service in re-examining this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Schmidt  
Member of the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg



## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: Pet grooming is essential

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**From:** Mysteria Shinpaugh [mailto:heavengrooming@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:22 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** Pet grooming is essential

Commissioners : AS A VOTING RESIDENT OF PINELLAS COUNTY, I am writing this to ask you to re-consider and designate PET GROOMING as a essential service in Pinellas County, re: Safer at Home Guidance, executive order 20-91 April 3, 2020.

Pet groomers are NOT just about bathing a dog and brushing to make the dog comfortable. Pet grooming prevents and often eliminates the infestation of fleas, ticks for which are extremely common in Florida. Pets that are infested with parasites, can easily negatively impact their owners, some elderly or unable to deal with or groom their pets themselves. Flea and tick infestation on pets will lead to related disease caused by these parasites, worms, lyme disease just a couple of examples.

Pet groomers are easily able to have the ability to perform their job without coming into direct contact with owners and maintain recommended CDC guidelines, and WERE already doing so before the county executive order of April 3, 2020.

Groomers can either easily retrieve the pet from a vehicle, as veterinarians/boarding kennels are now doing, on the pet groomers own lead. Owners of pets can also arrive, allowing only one at a time, and put their pet in a kennel or holding area, and take their own collar and lead with them. Six to eight foot social distancing is easily observed, along with cleaning procedures upon the owners departure.

For pick up, owners are easily contacted via call or text and given specific time to retrieve their pet from the holding area, one at a time, with payment being made electronically over the phone or other electronic alternatives (Zelle, Pay Pal or Venmo for example) , or in person followed by proper sanitation procedures. This procedure can be followed by Mobile or Salon owners. THIS IS THE NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR MANY PET GROOMERS ALREADY.

By the nature of the business, groomers already practice many of the guidelines recommended by the CDC, for example sanitizing their tables, crates and equipment between pet grooming, wearing protective masks and garments.

IT is considered neglectful, according to the ASPCA and Animal Humane Society, to go extended periods of time between grooming sessions. The county has enough on their plate at this time, and doesn't need to eliminate a service, that by being eliminated, could lead to potential animal neglect charges of one of residents.

### Hair Comes Trouble: Why Pets Need Regular Grooming

For dogs and cats, proper hair hygiene is essential; failure to groom pets regularly can have serious health consequences. Especially for the pet if the pet owner tries to groom a scared, biting, matted, hard to do animals themselves and getting bit and or cutting them.

I am ask Pinellas County commissioners to add PET GROOMING to their list of essential services immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

## Bachteler, James J

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**Subject:** FW: [BULK] Dog Grooming

**Importance:** Low

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**From:** Glenna Soper [mailto:glennasoper01@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:14 PM

**To:** Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>

**Subject:** [BULK] Dog Grooming

**Importance:** Low

Please consider opening dog grooming facilities. I have a Bernedoodle that needs monthly grooming. She is a bit wild so this is never something I could do myself. I fear my dog will become matted and it could multiple issues for the dogs skin and ears if they mat. Please for the well being of our furry family members.

Thanks,

Glenna Soper

6125 37th Avenue N

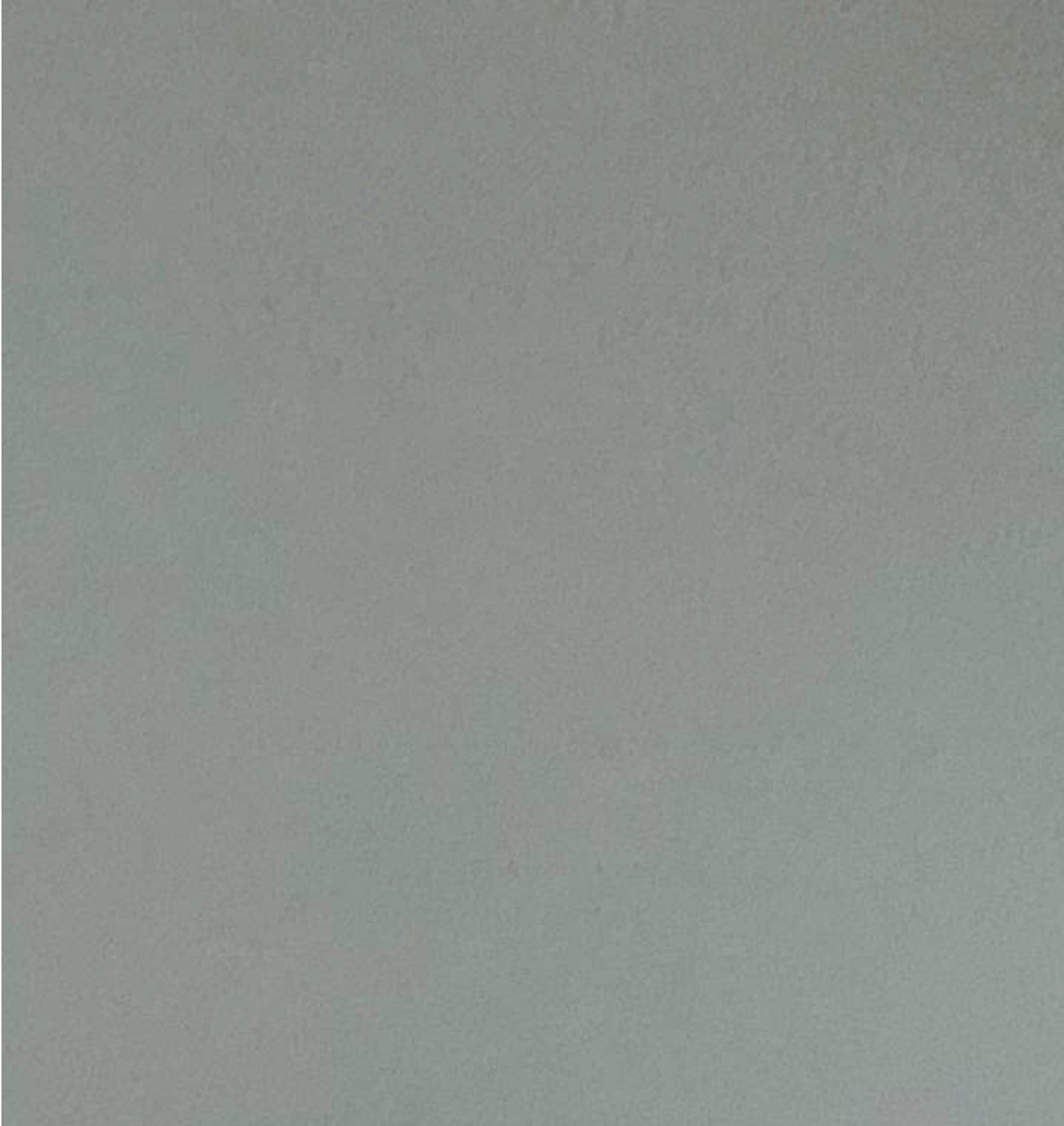
St..Petersburg Fl 33710



**Bachteler, James J**

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**From:** Channing Vogl <channingevogl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth  
**Subject:** Pet groomers are essential workers!!!



**CAUTION:**

This message has originated from Outside of the Organization. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

These are my 2 Cocker Spaniel pups Charlie and Belle. Cocker Spaniels are known for having really long and curly hair and if they aren't groomed every 4-6 week (max!) they can develop matting, yeast infections, rashes, etc. Grooming for these types of dogs and many others is MANDATORY!! You may wonder why those of us owning these types of dogs don't just cut their hair ourselves, well groomers do a lot more than just "cut their hair". Groomers also help find the best shampoo suited for your pet (to avoid allergies and irritation/ dryness), they are trained professionals that feel comfortable trimming the hair in sensitive areas like around the eyes, ears, and mouth. I personally don't own any clippers even if I was brave enough to try to groom my dogs myself, and with the stay at home order in place, I've been avoiding going to the store. Amazon also only ships what they consider to be essential items, putting a hold or extended delivery on all other items... such as clippers. If you could please vote to make groomers essential workers, you'd be doing everyone, including my pups, a big favor.

Sincerely,  
Channing Vogl