

701—26.63(422) Pet grooming. On or after July 1, 1985, persons engaged in the business of pet grooming are rendering a service, the gross receipts of which are subject to tax. A “pet” is any animal which has been tamed or gentled and which is kept by its owner for pleasure or affection rather than for utility or profit. “Grooming” consists of any act performed to maintain or improve the appearance of a pet and includes, but is not limited to, washing, combing, currying, hair cutting and nail clipping. Livestock are not pets, and the gross receipts from the grooming of livestock (e.g., to prepare those livestock for exhibition at fairs or shows) are nontaxable gross receipts. The gross receipts paid to any person who is not a veterinarian for the grooming of any dog (other than a Seeing Eye dog) or cat will be presumed to be the gross receipts from “pet grooming” and subject to tax.

If pet grooming is done for veterinary purposes, the sales tax does not apply since the grooming is an integral part of the nontaxable service of veterinary care. If pet grooming is done for both veterinary and cosmetic reasons, the primary purpose for the treatment will determine if sales tax should be collected. In situations where the charge for the cosmetic treatment and the veterinary-related treatment can be invoiced separately, sales tax should be collected only on the cosmetic portion of the billing. It will be presumed that pet grooming activities such as washing, trimming, and cutting are for cosmetic purposes unless it can be shown that the treatment was primarily done for veterinary purposes.

See rule 701—18.43(422,423) for an exemption for written contracts in effect on April 1, 1985.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code subsection 422.43(11).