

Getting to Know Poodles by Cathy Lambert

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What you are viewing is a random sample from the book aimed at showing you the quality and the depth of detail that you can expect from the rest of the eBook. Please take the time to look through the 'Table of Contents'. You will see that we have covered just about everything you could want to know about choosing and owning a Poodle. Learn how to locate a reputable breeder, choose a healthy puppy, and provide on-going care for your new companion.

Getting to Know Poodles is over 180 pages filled with easy reading current information with over 200 colour images and embedded video files. An extensive list of on-line resources is provided for further reading.

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Getting to Know **Poodles**

A Guide to Choosing and Owning a Poodle

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Animalinfo

Publications

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History of the Poodle



The origin of the Poodle can be traced back to the ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians. In the first century A.D. ancestral Poodles were depicted on coins, on carvings in tombs, and also on artefacts herding animals and retrieving game from marshlands.

Although these ancestors looked somewhat different to the Poodles of today, they were nonetheless the obvious precursors to the modern Poodle, which makes them one of the oldest dog breeds known.



Caesia 1 denarius - Lucius Caesius, c.112-111 BC AR denarius. The Reverse depicts two Lares and a flanking dog, believed to be a precursor to the modern Poodle.

It wasn't until the 15th century however, that further development of the Poodle can be traced. Poodles were depicted in artwork of this era, and in Germany, the *pudel*

(meaning to 'splash in water') had become well known as a water retriever. By the 16th century large Poodles, similar to today's Standard Poodles, were well established throughout Europe, and were very popular as hunting and retrieving dogs for waterfowl. In paintings, these dogs were seen with their coats clipped in a decorative fashion, just as they are today when in competition. However, it was not for decoration that these working water dogs had their coats clipped in such a way, but rather to help them cope with their job of retrieving in cold water and thick vegetation. The coat was left long over the joints and around the upper body to keep vital areas warm, and was shaved elsewhere to reduce snagging in vegetation and to reduce drag when the coat got wet and heavy. Today's practice of putting a ribbon on the

Image Top – 'Belle Story Rockingham Victory'

Photo – Chip Laughton

Days Afield Photography, LLC

attractive if given the right amount of attention, but is not commonly seen. The wavier coats will form into cords more easily but all are capable of cording. In the show ring, Poodles can be entered with either a curly or a corded coat, and must be clipped to strict guidelines (see 'Grooming' page 122). Although corded Poodles have been popular in the past, they are not often seen in the show ring these days, as the amount of time taken to keep their coat in good condition is significant, particularly regarding the length of time the coat takes to dry following the regular bathing normally required for show preparation.

Poodles generally come in one solid colour only, which may be a shade of black, blue, grey, silver, brown, café-au-lait, apricot, red, white or cream.



*Above - Black bitch,
'Shephaus Neways Girl'*



*Above – White bitch, 'Australian Grand
Champion Retsae Espirit De Lune'*



*Right – Brown bitch, 'Australian Champion
Pudelian Decadence'*



*Left – Silver dog, ‘Australian Champion
Clopton Sylvenus Mirror Man (imp UK)’*



*Right – Blue bitch, ‘Australian Champion
Rosuvic Call Me Madam’*

*Below – Apricot dog, ‘Australian
Champion Georgio Aus Dem
Schneckenhaus’ (Imp Gmy)*



*Above – Cream bitch, ‘Australian Champion
Sylvenus Miss Nibs’*



Breed Standards



If you are interested in showing Poodles you will need to purchase an animal with a National Kennel Club or Council registered pedigree. You will also need to join the Kennel Council in your state or region as an exhibitor. These clubs cater for all purebred dogs that they recognise as being well established, known breeds. Their



*‘Australian Champion Clopton Sylvenus Mirror Man’ and Joan Jensen winning ‘Best in Show’ at the 2007 Western Australian Poodle Society Championship Show.
Top – ‘Sylvenus Mini the Moocher at Clopton’*

broad objectives are to improve the lives of dogs and promote responsible dog ownership. They do this in many ways including providing advice on dog welfare, choosing the right breed, health, training, show and sporting activities and breeding. They also often maintain health databases for inherited diseases, and can guide owners towards agencies that test for these disorders. They may become involved in legislation relating to dogs, and be a national spokesperson on their behalf. The other major role they fill is to maintain a register of canine pedigrees. This is important in the promotion of the health of dogs, so inbreeding and the breeding of dogs with inherited disorders can be avoided.

exercise just moving around the house. Standards are not quite so active indoors however, and so need to be taken out more often, and really should have access to at least a small yard. Being large dogs, Standards will need regular walks on the lead as well as some time off the lead to get sufficient exercise to remain fit and healthy. You should be careful around water if your Poodle is carrying a long coat, as it will become very heavy when wet, and drowning can be a real possibility.

Poodles are clever and versatile dogs, able to learn quickly to fit into many lifestyles. For owners who enjoy an active lifestyle, there are clubs to join that specialise in field-trial events that focus on their historical skills. All Poodle varieties are generally happy, lively dogs with great individual charm and character, but will lose their 'spark' if left alone too often. They are definitely people oriented dogs and will be happiest in the company of their human family, and will do well as a predominantly home-based dog. However, their athleticism and intelligence also allows them to enjoy and excel at certain club-based activities such as obedience and agility.

Many people suffer from allergies these days, and dog hair is one of the culprits. Fortunately, the Poodles non-shedding, low allergenic coat allows many dog lovers, afflicted by allergies, to enjoy the many pleasures that having a dog in your life can bring. However, the ideal owner must

also be one that has the time and inclination for regular grooming. A Poodle's coat grows continuously, and so needs clipping regularly to keep it a manageable length, brushing often to prevent matting, and attention paid to its ears, teeth and feet to keep them in good condition. Poodles also make excellent dogs for people who enjoy the excitement of the show ring, as they are one of the more time-consuming and exacting breeds to prepare for such events.

These days, apart from being predominantly companion dogs, Poodles can also be



*'Benson' and owner Teri Carter
For owners who enjoy an active lifestyle, there
are clubs to join that specialise in field-trial
events that focus on their historical skills.
Photo - Chip Laughton*



Other dogs belonging to the breeder should be in good condition.

should be able to see him also, but if an outside stud was used then this may not be possible, however it would be good to see a photo. If you are considering buying a puppy with pedigree papers, then you should also be shown the sire's papers and his show records.

The breeder's dogs should be in good condition or there should be a good explanation for any dogs that aren't. They

should have good body condition, bright eyes and appear happy and active at the prospect of attention.

You should ask about the worming regime that they use for their puppies. Good breeders will be aware that puppies should be wormed fortnightly from two weeks of age with a special puppy wormer until they are twelve weeks of age, at which time the worming treatments become less frequent. A small puppy that has carried a worm burden will not be as well developed as it should be. You should also enquire as to the diet they use for their puppies, however a good breeder should make you aware of this without being asked, as sudden changes in diet can cause diarrhoea and they would not want this to happen.

A good breeder will be aware that puppies need to be wormed every two weeks to prevent development problems.

Photo – Sylvenus Poodles



Some lines of Miniature Poodles may be prone to **Patella Luxation** and **Mitral Valve Dysplasia (MVD)**, and may be prone to a lesser extent to **Hip Dysplasia**, **Sebaceous Adenitis (SA)**, **von Willebrand's Disease (vWD)** and the eye diseases **Entropion** and **Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)**.

Toy Poodles may be prone to **Patella Luxation**, and may be prone to a lesser extent to **Mitral Valve Dysplasia (MVD)**, **Sebaceous Adenitis** and the eye disorders **Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)** and **Entropion**.



When purchasing a pup, be sure to ask for documented proof that the parents have been screened for potential health problems

When purchasing a pup, be sure to ask for documented proof that the parents have been screened for these health problems - don't rely on verbal assurances. These diseases are discussed later in more detail in the chapter on '*Poodle Health Issues*' (page 149) including information on the testing schemes and databases that results are entered into. Other potentially serious diseases are also mentioned in this chapter. Although screening is available for some of these diseases, they are not as prevalent in the breed, so it is probably unreasonable to expect a breeder to screen for them. Discuss the diseases with breeders anyway, and if you have any doubts about the soundness of their stock, ask about the possibility of a screening test.

If you take a little time to be as sure about the future health of your dog as possible, you will undoubtedly save yourself a lot more time and expense later on, you and your dog will have much more fun together, and you will be encouraging the responsible breeding of healthy Poodles for future generations.

It is crucial that the pup is held in a secure area so that it cannot get out onto the street or come to harm in any other way, such as falling into a pool or gaining access to potentially aggressive dogs next door. Pups are small and flexible and have a knack of being able to get under gates and through gaps in fences.

The First Days

Pups will often cry on their first night away from their mother and while this can make sleep for their new owners difficult, it usually doesn't last too long. After they have had their last feed they should go to sleep for the evening, though it is important to let the pup know that you are close at hand. You can check in on a



Pups love to explore! Make sure they can't get into potentially harmful situations.



It is important to allow young pups and dogs to rest.

regular basis and take them out for a toilet break but it is not good to come running at the first sound they utter. They will quickly learn that to get attention, all they need to do is start whining.

The activity level of puppies will vary greatly between different breeds and between individuals. One characteristic that is common to all puppies is the need for frequent sleeps. Families with children need to be aware that the pup needs to rest. When their activity level begins to slow, they should be allowed to go to sleep.

Diets



After twelve months of age most dogs will suffice on one meal a day. However, there are occasions where maintaining more frequent feeds may be beneficial. For example, large and deep chested dogs such as Standard Poodles may be prone to Gastric Dilation and Volvulus (Bloat). This extremely serious and potentially fatal condition requires urgent treatment if the dog is going to survive, and it is thought that feeding smaller more frequent meals may help prevent this problem arising (See page 149 'Poodle Health Issues' for more information).



Large breeds such as Standard Poodles may benefit from smaller more frequent meals to lower the risk of 'bloat'.

Another reason for feeding more than one meal a day may be to keep your dog more relaxed and quiet, as a hungry dog may be more inclined to be noisy or destructive. However, over feeding dogs is also a major problem, so in many cases destructive and noisy behaviour is better prevented by providing activity toys rather than by feeding extra meals.

Choosing an unsuitable diet for an adult dog has less serious consequences than choosing an inadequate diet for a puppy. Because puppies grow so rapidly, feeding a poor diet can have an irreversible negative impact on their development. With adult dogs however, most negative impacts of an unsuitable diet can be reversed, if recognised early enough. It is

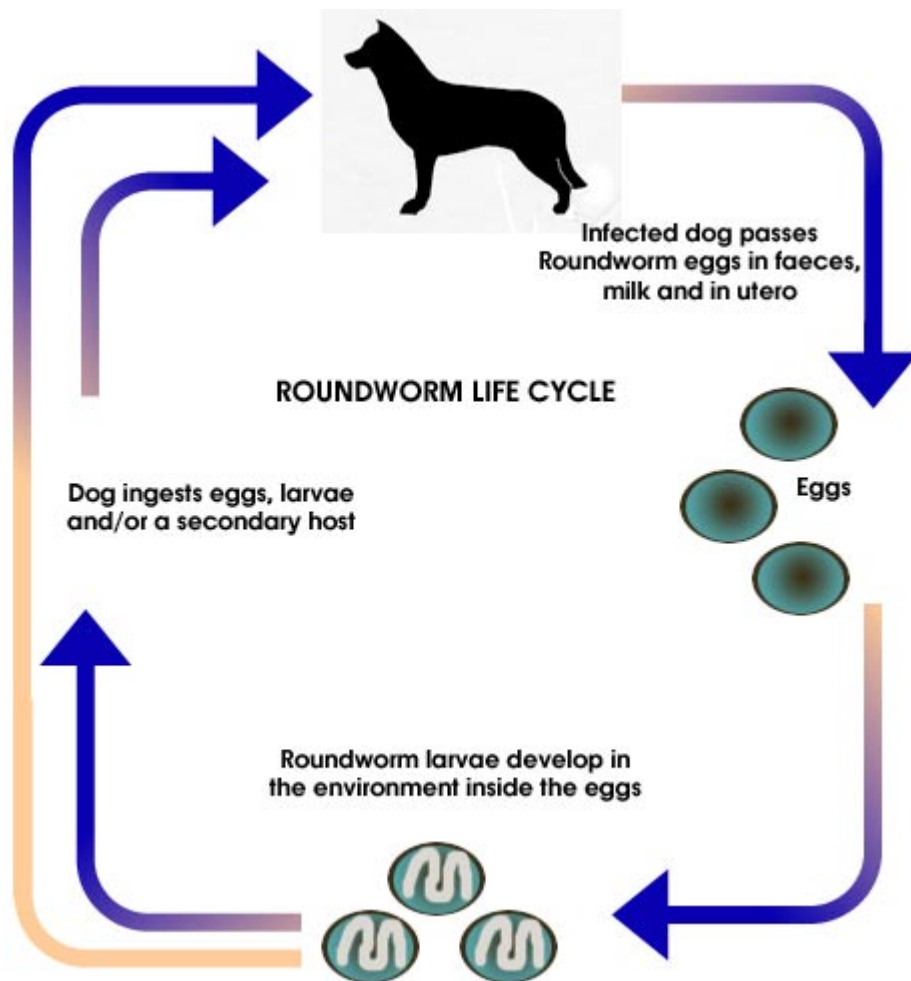
Food allergies and Special Diets

Food allergies can develop over a long period of time, so your dog may begin to show symptoms years after being stable on the same diet! It can show as itchiness, licking, rubbing, ear infections, flatulence and more rarely vomiting, diarrhoea and sneezing. If your dog is already on a premium food the chances of developing a food allergy will be lessened, but dogs can be allergic to one simple ingredient and it is often a long and painful process to eliminate all of the possible culprits. This is something you should seek your vet's advice on – there are special allergy diets available now that can be used short or long term while you gradually reintroduce other ingredients back into your dog's diet.

There are also special diets available for a variety of health related issues such as kidney, liver, and joint disease. These tend to be manufactured by companies that produce good quality diets and are based on sound research into common health issues, such as kidney failure in older dogs. Most are available from veterinary practices only and should be used on the recommendation of your vet.



The benefits of feeding a premium diet are reflected in the excellent condition of 10yr old Pepper(left) and 14 yr old Kiri (right).



The second species of roundworm, *Toxascaris leonina*, has a simpler lifecycle. It completes its cycle in the intestine and does not migrate within the body. The same wormers are effective against both species. Many of the combination worming treatments are effective against roundworms. Monthly flea or heartworm prevention programs that include roundworm treatments are also effective in preventing environmental contamination. Due to the fact that roundworms can only be treated when they are present in the intestine, multiple treatments may be required to rid the dog's system of roundworms. The monthly preventative programs are effective in accomplishing this task.

Hookworms (*Ancylostoma caninum*, *Ancylostoma braziliense*)

Heavy burdens of most intestinal worms can cause serious illness in your dog and hookworm, in particular, can cause death in young pups due to blood loss. Unlike other intestinal worms that absorb nutrients from food passing through the digestive system, hookworms suck blood directly from their host. Like roundworms they have an environmental stage in their lifecycle and they can also migrate in the body, infecting the lungs and mammary glands as well as unborn puppies.

Hookworm eggs are passed into the environment through the droppings of infected dogs. The eggs hatch in the soil and complete two further stages of their lifecycle before being able to infect another host. They do this in two ways- either by being licked up by a dog whose coat has been contaminated with soil carrying larvae, or by

Puppy Trim



The face, throat, feet and base of the tail are shaved close to the skin, leaving the rest of the coat long, and a pom-pom on the end of the tail.

*'Starina Who Said I Am' in
Puppy trim
Photo – Nicole Tetof*

Lion Trim (English Saddle)

The face, throat, feet and base of the tail are shaved close to the skin leaving a pom-pom on the end of the tail. The forelegs are also shaved, leaving a puff of hair between the foot and the elbow. Similarly, two narrow bands on the back legs are shaved, leaving puffs of hair over the hock and knee joints. A small curved area is also shaved on each flank. The hair on the hindquarters and puffs is cut short in comparison to the remainder of the body, which is left in full coat but with some trimming allowed to create good shape and balance.



*'Kateisha Kiwiscan Fly' (Imp
NZ) in English Saddle trim.*



Pups that are introduced to grooming early quickly learn to stand still during trimming with scissors and clippers.

clippers on the table next to your pup during these initial sessions so they get used to seeing them, but don't turn them on yet. Once your pup is relaxed on the table (few days to a week), you can gradually extend the time spent grooming, and introduce the clippers. It's best to do this in stages, depending on the tolerance of your pup. The first stage is turning the clippers on briefly, then for longer periods, then holding them close to the pup's head, then touching them to the body and head, and eventually clipping some hair. Some pups adjust to the clippers very quickly, but others need a more gradual approach. If the pup is having trouble adjusting, be patient and take the process slowly, so the many grooming sessions in the future will be relaxing and enjoyable.

If you get your Poodle regularly clipped by a professional, then all you will need to do in between visits is to give the short coat a regular going over with a slicker brush. If you are doing the clipping yourself, you will need to clip the coat short, paying particular attention to the feet, where you will probably also have to use scissors to get in between the pads.

Banding together the long hair on the top of the head and on the ears between shows helps prevent the hair from cording.



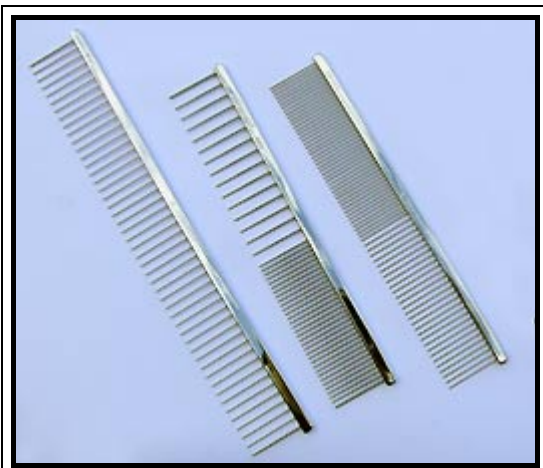


Pin Brushes come in a variety of pin lengths. The pins on good quality pin brushes are polished to avoid scratching the skin.

Slicker Brushes

These have short fine metal teeth that are useful in teasing out mats. The idea is to break up mats that involve the outer coat first before tackling mats that are close to the skin involving the undercoat.

Slicker brushes are useful for teasing out mats.



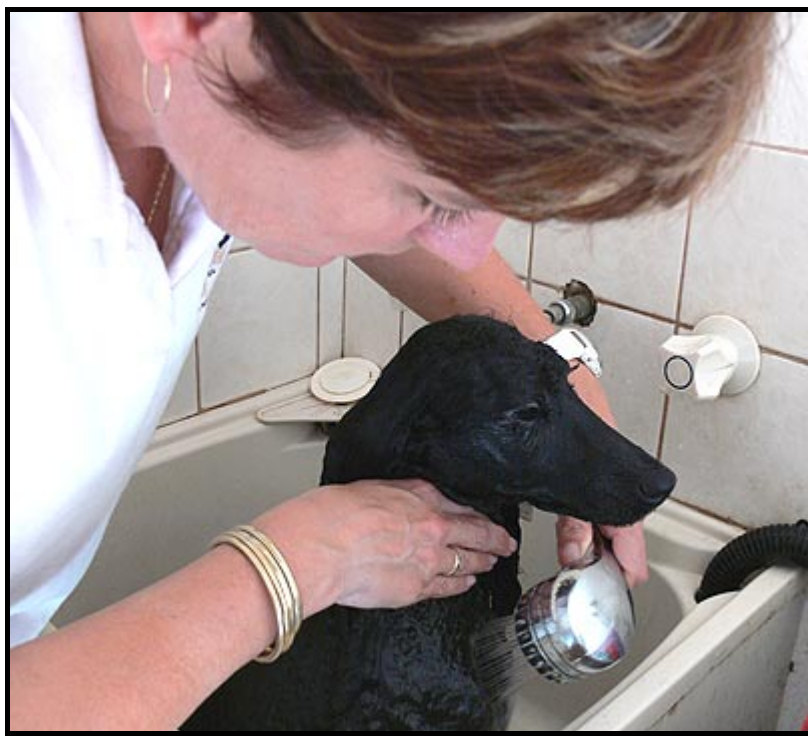
Combs are used after brushing to remove dead hair and tangles that brushing may have missed.

Combs

Generally used after brushing to remove more dead and loose hair, but also to work out tangles identified during brushing. Many have wider pins at one end and closer pins at the other end. Always begin by using the wider end of the comb to avoid pulling out hair if you hit a tangle.

Bathing

There are no hard and fast rules regarding how often you bath your Poodle. However, bath time is not an enjoyable experience for many dogs, so inflicting too many bath sessions on your dog is likely to result in some resentment. If your dog's coat is kept clean from brushing, less bathing is required and this will help preserve the natural oils in the dog's coat. This is probably preferable to frequent baths, particularly from your dog's point of view!



It is important to rinse thoroughly to make sure the coat is free of residual shampoo.

However, for dogs, it is a natural instinct to roll in things that smell really awful to disguise their own scent. As a result, bathing will

usually be an unavoidable task from time to time. Providing that you use shampoos and conditioners that have been formulated for dogs, and that your dog is not allergic to the ingredients in your shampoo, bathing can be as frequent as you require. Insecticide shampoos should only be used if necessary, as these tend to dry out the skin more than normal shampoos.

It is important to brush out and remove any hair mats before bathing your Poodle as they will only get worse and harder to remove after washing. Most dogs that have not been washed for some time will require at least two applications of shampoo, with a rinse in between, to adequately



Blow drying is essential for dogs in show clips



Activity and puzzle toys may help to keep your dog busy and quiet while you are away from home.



may also result from boredom, frustration, indecision, and separation anxiety when their owner is away from home. Sometimes it can result from health issues, particularly in older dogs.

Providing enrichment for your dog in the form of activity toys can be helpful in occupying them. But remember, some noisy 'squeaky' toys can be as annoying as barking! Puzzle toys and 'Kongs™' allow you to hide treats inside. Retrieving the treats can occupy a dog for long periods so they may be a better choice. It is important to make sure that toys are the appropriate size for your dog so they are not at risk from choking while you are away.

Getting them used to being outside on their own while you are home can avoid separation anxiety and help them relax while you are away. They should be provided with a comfortable, secure area to spend the day. The company of another dog may also help. Dogs can play together for long periods and the security of having another dog around can help those that bark as a result of separation anxiety. You must be aware, however, that two dogs can mean 'double trouble', particularly where the problem is alarm barking. It is natural pack behaviour for dogs to join in the defence of their territory.

Remember, some squeaky toys can be as annoying to neighbours as barking.