

*The
Poodle
Club
of America,
Inc.*

Congratulates you on your new Poodle Puppy!



The Poodle:

That of a very active, intelligent and elegant-appearing dog, squarely built, well proportioned, moving soundly and carrying himself proudly. Properly clipped in the traditional fashion and carefully groomed, the Poodle has about him an air of distinction and dignity peculiar to himself.

(TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL AKC POODLE BREED STANDARD)

The following information is provided by The Poodle Club of America, Inc. to help you with basic information on the breed .

THREE VARIETY OF POODLES

There are three varieties of Poodles; Toy, Miniature, and Standard. *Terms such as a "Royal Standard", "Tea Cup Toy" or "Tiny Toy Poodle" are marketing gimmicks, used to promote the sale of animals that are dramatically over or under the norm in size.*

TOY POODLE- The Toy is the smallest variety and should be no larger than 10" high at the shoulder. This size is particularly well suited to apartment life or as a traveling companion for retired people.

MINIATURE POODLE- The Miniature Poodle is a medium-sized animal standing between 10" and 15" high at the shoulder. This variety is a sturdy compromise between the Toy and the Standard, suitable both to apartment life as well as the hardy life-style of a family with children.

STANDARD POODLE- The Standard is the largest of the three varieties with no restriction on size. Typically Standards will be about 21" to 27" high at the shoulder with the females usually a little smaller than the males. Being a larger, more substantial animal, the Standard will usually require more room for exercise than the other two varieties

GENETIC TESTING-Health Issues- Animal health is an important consideration, both at the time of purchase and long-term. *Genetically-inherited disorders (some of which do not manifest themselves for several years) are present in virtually every living creature and Poodles, unfortunately, are no exception.*

All three varieties of Poodles have been diagnosed with Hip Dysplasia, Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Cataracts, Seizure Disorders, Thyroid Disorders, Cushings and von Willebrand's Disease. Other genetic disorders occur as well.

The Toy and Miniature Poodles are susceptible to two orthopedic problems: Legg-Perthes and Luxating Patellas. The Standard Poodle may be afflicted with Gastric Torsion (Bloat), Sebaceous Adenitis with Hyper-keratosis, or with an Auto Immune Disorder such as Addison's Disease or Auto Immune Hemolytic Anemia.

HIP DYSPLASIA

Description- This is a malformation of the hip joint wherein the animal experiences pain and discomfort while moving and can exhibit symptoms of lameness.

Method of Diagnosis- radiography (x-ray).

Certification- There are three registries available for certifications; OFA, GDC, and Penn-Hip.

PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY (PRA)

Description - PRA is a gradual deterioration of the retina of the eye. Initially the animal will exhibit night blindness and eventually will experience total loss of sight.

Method of Diagnosis- ophthalmoscopic exam (CERF) or electro-retinograph (ERG) by a veterinary ophthalmologist and DNA marker test by OptiGen (PRCD).

Certification- annual examination and registration with Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF), plus DNA marker test by OptiGen (PRCD) and registration on OFA database.

VON WILLEBRAND'S DISEASE (VWD)

Description- Inherited bleeding disorder.

Method of Diagnosis- DNA test is available through Vet gen and Genesearch.

Certification- Test resulting indicating clear, carrier or affected.

THYROID MALFUNCTION

Description: (various)

Method of Diagnosis: Blood test

Certification: Normal thyroid levels

PATELLAR LUXATION (SLIPPED STIFLES)

Description: Dislocation of the kneecap from abnormal structure of the stifle joint, as well as muscles and tendons.

Method of Diagnosis: Radiograph (x-ray)

Certification: Results from Veterinary orthopedic specialist exam.

LEGG-PERTHE'S DISEASE

Description: Losses of blood supply to the cap of the femur bone in the hip joint leading to deterioration of the joint cartilage.

Method of Diagnosis: Radiograph (x-ray)

Certification: Results from orthopedic specialist exam.

ADDISON'S DISEASE

Description: Destruction of the adrenal gland resulting in depression, lack of appetite, vomiting and or diarrhea with abdominal pain, hypotensive shock with weakness and shivering.

Method of Diagnosis: Blood test for sodium/potassium ratio as a screening test.

Certification: Blood test results.

SEBACEOUS ADENITIS (SA)

Description: Skin disease leading to progressive loss of hair and hair follicles.

Method of Diagnosis: Microscopic examination of a skin biopsy by approved veterinary pathologist. (Skin Punch)

Certification: Annual Pathologists report.

SHOW QUALITY VERSUS PET QUALITY-A show quality puppy is one which, in the breeder's opinion, should be able to become a champion. A pet quality puppy is less likely, in the breeder's estimation, to succeed in the show ring. However, making such a prediction at 8 to 16 weeks of age (the age when puppies typically are sold) involves guesswork and is not a sure thing.

A pet quality puppy is one that has a minor fault which would eliminate it from being shown, i.e., a white spot on the chest or elsewhere, one testicle, oversize or undersize (Toys or Miniatures), or an improper bite. However, the feature (s) which disqualify the puppies from the show ring, in no way, affects their ability to be a wonderful companion.

SPAY/NEUTER-The Poodle Club of America recommends that you spay /neuter your Poodle. Responsible breeders sell their Poodles with a spay/neuter agreement, and with AKC's limited Registration option which says that although your pet is an AKC registered purebred dog, it cannot be bred. If it is bred, the offspring cannot be registered with the American Kennel Club. Using this form is the breeder's way of ensuring that the puppy will not be bred and pass along the disqualifying feature to future generations. Spaying or neutering your dog also increases its chances of leading a longer, healthier and happier life. Spayed females will have reduced incidence of mammary tumors. Neutering a male will reduce the chance of prostate problems. *Please Note: There is no scientific evidence that it is helpful for a bitch to have a first season or have a litter of puppies.*

OBEDIENCE/ TRAINING THE POODLE-Basic obedience is necessary for all dogs. Poodles are very intelligent and easily trained to do a number of things. Some of the activities that Poodles enjoy are field trials, hunting, agility, and obedience. Local Kennel Clubs or Professional training schools offer classes to train your Poodle.

VETERINARIAN-When you get your Poodle puppy, take it to the Vet's office for a Well Puppy Check Up. This will ensure that its shots and worming are up to date. In addition, your vet will check your puppy's heart, ears, etc. so that you can be assured that every thing is as it should be.

GROOMING-Your new puppy has been delivered to you freshly bathed, toe nails trimmed, hair in the ear canal has been removed, ears are fresh and clean smelling, face, feet and tail have been shaved and the body coat is scissored to a pleasing shape.

Now, all you have to do is learn the basics of coat care. Prior to being bathed, your puppy should be brushed out thoroughly. Ideally, the puppy should be bathed (using a mild puppy shampoo) at least twice a month. Care must be taken not to allow any soap in the puppy's eyes or water in it's ears. Blow dry your Poodle under low heat from your hair dryer using the brush while blowing dry. If you have a standard puppy you may wish to purchase an electric dog dryer. It's better to use a pin brush, rather than a wire slicker which is meant for badly tangled coats and will pull out hair. It is a good idea to brush your puppy every other day or so, which will insure that you never have to worry about its coat becoming tangled and matted. If this does happen to your new Poodle, the coat may have to be shaved completely, something you want to avoid. If you don't want to bath your puppy at home, it maybe done by a professional groomer in a grooming shop. It is not wise to expose your puppy to the grooming shop until after 16 weeks when shots for parvo and distemper will be fully up to date.

Clipping and scissoring should be left to the professional at the start, however many people learn to do their own trimming in time, and enjoy the challenge.

Ears should be cleaned weekly. Gently pull the long hairs out of the ear canal regularly, and swab the ear canal with your finger wrapped in cotton moistened with ear cleaner recommended by your Vet or Groomer. If the puppy is scratching its ears or the ears have a bad odor, see your vet immediately.

Toe nails must be clipped every week or two. This is very important. By doing the nails regularly the puppy will become use to it. Take off only the tip ends of the nail, as you do not wish to cut into the "Quick" which will hurt and bleed.

Whatever you do in terms of grooming, do not frighten the puppy or make it nervous about grooming. Teach it to lie quietly as it is being brushed and rely on treats to make it an enjoyable experience.

Remember Poodles do not shed, they make a perfect breed for people with allergies and asthma. They may require more maintenance than some other breeds, but well worth the effort. Never be afraid to ask any questions of your Breeder, Veterinarian or Groomer.

CRATE TRAINING-A crate is not a jail, it is the safest place the puppy can be to learn to be housebroken, have its meals, sleep at night, ride in the car, and stay in hotels and motels. It will become its own portable “Den”. The nature of a dog is not to foul its “Nest”. This means that until you have instilled in the puppy an idea of housebreaking, a healthy puppy will not go against its natural instincts.

Have a crate the size that will fit the puppy comfortably, large enough so that the puppy may stand up, turn around and has enough space to lie down with ease. You may have to get a larger crate as the puppy grows. If the puppy is going to be large, do not buy a huge crate to begin with. It will give the puppy ideas of being able to use a portion of it as a restroom, something you do not want to happen.

Start the puppy off in its crate the first night. Make sure the puppy has not had water after 4p.m., that the puppy has had its supper, has been given a chance to relieve itself, just before you go to bed. Put the crate with a towel in it, next to your bed. Put the puppy in the crate with a puppy biscuit, always reward for entering the crate, and settle down for the night.

If the puppy has other ideas, do not give in. Do not take the puppy on the bed or allow the puppy to run free in the bedroom. The first couple of nights are the most important, to both you and the puppy. Training is a matter of patience and time.

Always travel with the puppy in its crate, it is the only safe way. Always reward for correct behavior, even if it's only a small cracker. Carry some in your pocket for any occasion such as crating, performance of housebreaking duties, and coming when called. The opportunities are boundless, and will be a shortcut to training your puppy quickly and happily.

RESPONSIBLE OWNER- Poodle Club of America urges that if ever the day comes when you cannot care for your Poodle for whatever reason, you contact your Poodle's breeder. If you are unable to contact the breeder, there is a national rescue organization set up within the Poodle Club of America that can put you in contact with someone in your area who will help you with your Poodle. The AKC always has the name and number of the current contact for Rescue for the Poodle Club of America. American Kennel Club, 260 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016. ***Our goal is that no Poodle will have to go to an animal shelter.***

PARENT CLUB-The Poodle Club of America (PCA) is a non profit organization dedicated to the welfare of the Poodle .

POODLE CLUB OF AMERICA WEB SITE

For more information and related reading materials on the Poodle please visit our website at

URL: <http://www.poodleclubofamerica.org>