

Poodle Fact Sheet

Poodle Club of New South Wales Inc.

www.poodleclubnsw.com



History

The Poodle's origins can be found mainly in Germany, France and Russia. The word Poodle derives from the German word 'Pudel' meaning to splash in water. Appearing in European art from the fifteenth century (1400's), Poodles became the national dog of France and a popular companion dog. Poodle Clubs were formed in the United Kingdom in 1876, in the USA in 1931 and in New South Wales in 1955. Did you know Winston Churchill owned a Miniature Poodle called 'Rufus'?

Standard Poodles are the largest of the breed and were bred as water retrievers. The thick coat and the traditional trims reflect the practical requirements of retrieving in cold European waters. Miniature and Toy Poodles were developed over the centuries as companions, circus and street performers, and for searching out truffles, the mushroom-like fungus used in gourmet cooking.

In Australia, Poodles performed in circuses on the gold fields in the nineteenth century. Poodles first appeared in a show catalogue at the Sydney Royal Easter Show of 1873. At first all Poodles were shown as 'Standards'. The first classification of Miniature Poodle at a Sydney Royal Easter Show occurred in 1950. Toy Poodles are now extremely popular.

Height and size

The Australian National Kennel Club (ANKC) recognises only three sizes. These are:

Standard	38cm (15 inches) and over at the top of the shoulder, and usually over 55cm (22 inches) at the shoulder;
Miniature	28cm (11 inches) and under 38cm (15 inches);
Toy	under 28cm (11 inches).

'Pocket Poodle', 'Teacup Poodle' or 'Royal Standard Poodle' **are not** recognised by the ANKC or the Poodle Club of New South Wales Inc.

Colours

According to the ANKC a Poodle can be any **solid** colour including black, white, cream, brown, silver, blue, red and apricot. Mixed colour, or parti-colour Poodles cannot be shown but can compete in Obedience, Agility and Rally-O.

Coat maintenance

All Poodles require daily attention and regular brushing, bathing and trimming. Regular clipping (e.g. 6-week cycles) and a short pet or sporting trim can help to reduce the amount of work required. The coat must never be allowed to mat or tangle and care must be taken to keep the eyes, ears (inside and out), mouth, feet and anal area clean. The Poodle coat changes to a harsher, denser quality at around 10-12 months of age. During this period matting must be avoided in pet Poodles with daily brushing and by keeping the coat short. Show Poodles require frequent bathing, brushing and trimming during coat change. The adult plush quality coat lends itself to easy trimming. The true Poodle coat does not shed like other dogs and is said to be non-allergenic. These qualities (and others) can be lost by careless breeding and by cross breeding.

Exercise requirements

Adult Standard Poodles benefit from regular, moderately vigorous outside exercise and stimulation. However, puppy outings (after 12-weeks of age) should be primarily for experience and socialisation and care should be taken not to over exercise the pup. The smaller varieties of Poodles also benefit from regular outings, especially if living in an apartment or townhouse. Smaller Poodles can be satisfied with a mix of walks and active games in a good sized garden. Diet and exercise need to be in balance to avoid weight issues. Avoid rigorous exercise in hot weather and immediately after meals. Dogs should have access to fresh water.

Suitability with children

All dogs require responsible training and socialisation to become good companions. Poodles of all sizes are suitable to be around children as long as supervised by a responsible adult. Children should also be provided with advice so they can learn about the needs of the dog and be aware of basic handling requirements. It is important children remain calm around dogs and young children may require additional supervision. Toy Poodles are small dogs and may require extra care to avoid injury from active, boisterous children. Standard Poodles are large dogs and young children cannot be expected to take responsibility for them.

Are you the ideal Poodle owner?

The ideal Poodle owner is a caring, sensible person who takes the responsibilities of owning a dog seriously and is willing to commit to regular grooming sessions. The Poodle owner must have the capacity to provide quality lifelong care including accommodation, coat care, feeding, exercise, training, health care (when required) and companionship. Poodles thrive on human companionship and do not do well if deprived of this companionship for extended periods of time on a regular basis.