

STANDARD POODLE

Official UKC Breed Standard

Effective January 2, 2024

Gun Dog Group

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The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following should be considered a fault, and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work as a gun dog.

Please Note: For Conformation exhibition purposes only, the solid-colored dogs and multi-colored dogs are shown separately. They are not actually separate breeds.

HISTORY

Dogs similar in type to today's Poodle were carved in Roman tombs as far back as 30 A.D. and can be seen in European paintings as early as the 15th century. Although the breed took its name from the German word "pudel," which means "to splash in water," the French were responsible for bringing the Poodle to international attention. The first Poodles in England were known as "Rough Water Dogs" and they served primarily as hunting companions. Poodles were first brought to the United States at the end of the 19th century, but the breed did not become popular until after World War II. By the mid 1950s, the Poodle was the most popular breed in the United States, a position held for over 20 years. Today the Poodle is divided into two breeds –

- The Standard Poodle, which serves primarily as a Gun dog and companion animal
- The Poodle, composed of the Miniature and Toy varieties, and which serves primarily as companion breed.

The standards of the two breeds are essentially identical but for size.

The Poodle was recognized by United Kennel Club in 1914. The Poodle was divided into two breeds, Standard Poodle and Poodle, on January 1, 2000.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Standard Poodle is a medium-sized, squarely built dog with a distinctive harsh curly coat that may be presented in any of several traditional Poodle clips or corded. The ears are long, drop, and densely feathered. The tail is normally docked, set high, and carried erect. The length of body (sternum to point of buttocks) is equal to the height (withers to ground). The Standard Poodle carries himself with an air of dignity and pride. The Standard Poodle should be evaluated as a working gun dog and exaggerations or faults should be penalized in proportion to how much they interfere with the dog's ability to work.

Working dogs are not to be penalized under any conditions for scars or blemishes that are due to hunting injuries.

Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Standard Poodle's most readily identifiable characteristic is its harsh, dense coat, which is presented in various trims or corded. Another essential characteristic is proper temperament. The breed is noted for its high intelligence, trainability, and sense of humor. Poodles are highly social and require human companionship and regular, close interaction with family members. Because of their great intelligence and the joy they take in human companionship, Poodles excel in performance events of all sorts. They are extremely affectionate with children.

Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.

HEAD

The head is proportionate to the size of the dog. When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are roughly parallel to one another and joined by a slight but definite stop.

SKULL - The skull is long and moderately rounded on top. Cheeks are clean and flat.

MUZZLE - In profile, the muzzle is straight and roughly equal in length to the length of the skull, measured from stop to occiput. The muzzle is fine with a slight chiseling under the eyes but with sufficient depth of underjaw to prevent snipiness. Lips are tight with black or liver pigment appropriate to coat color.

Serious Faults: Incomplete lip pigment or of wrong color for color of coat; weak underjaw.

TEETH - The Standard Poodle has a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.

Serious Faults: Overshot, undershot, wry mouth.

NOSE - Nose leather is liver for dogs with brown, café-au-lait, or silver beige coat color. Dogs with coats of all other colors must have black pigment, except that dogs with apricot or red coats may have liver nose pigment but it is not preferred.

Serious Faults: Incomplete nose pigment or of wrong color for color of coat.

EYES - Eyes are oval in shape and set sufficiently wide apart to give an alert, intelligent expression. Eyes are dark brown in dogs with black pigment and range from dark brown to dark amber for dogs with liver pigment.

Serious Faults: Round, protruding, large or very light eyes; eye and eye rim colors wrong for color of coat; eye rim pigment incomplete.

Disqualifications: Any variation of blue eyes, including flecks and marbling.

EARS - Ears are drop with long, wide, densely-feathered ear leather. Ears are set at or slightly below eye level and hang close to the head.

NECK

The neck is of sufficient length and strength to permit the head to be carried high when standing or moving. The neck blends smoothly into well-laid-back shoulders. The skin on the neck and throat is tight.

Serious Fault: Ewe neck

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders are smoothly muscled. The shoulder blades are long and well laid back. The upper arm appears to be equal in length to that of the shoulder blade and joins it at an apparent right angle. Elbows are close to the body. The forelegs are straight with bone and muscle proportionate to the size of the dog. Pasterns are strong and slightly sloping. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are parallel. Viewed from the side, the point of elbow is directly below the withers.

Serious Fault: Upright shoulders.

BODY

A properly proportioned Standard Poodle is square, with the length of body (measured from prosternum to point of buttocks) equal to height (measured from the withers to the ground). The length of the front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) is just slightly longer than half the dog's height. The line of the back drops off almost imperceptibly behind the withers and is then level. The loin is short, broad and muscular with moderate tuck-up. The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, then curving down and inward to form a deep body. The brisket extends to the elbow. Viewed from the front, the chest is well filled and moderately wide.

HINDQUARTERS

Hindquarters are muscular and with broad second thighs. The angulation of the hindquarters is in balance with the angulation of the forequarters. The stifles are well bent, and the hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground and, viewed from the rear, parallel to each other. In profile, the croup is nearly flat.

FEET

Good feet are essential for a working gun dog. The feet are relatively small, oval in shape and compact with well-arched toes and thick, elastic pads. Feet do not turn in or out. Nails are short and dark or self-colored. Dewclaws may be removed.

Serious Faults: Thin pads, splay foot.

TAIL

The tail is straight, set high, and customarily docked to a length proportionate to the size of the dog. Whether standing or moving, the tail is carried erect.

Serious Faults: Low tail set, tail curled or carried over the back.

COLOR

Coat colors in Standard Poodles include the following colors: black, blue, gray, silver, red, apricot, cream, white, brown, café-au-lait, and silver beige.

Dogs whose coats include the brown shades may have dark amber eyes; liver noses, eye rims and lips; and dark nails. Dogs with apricot or red coat color may have this combination of eye, pigment, and nail color as well but it is not desirable. All others must have very dark eyes; black noses, eye rims and lips; and black or self-colored nails. Coat color is solid and even. Clear colors are preferred but natural variations in the shading of the coat are not to be considered a fault.

Dogs whose coats are of the progressive graying colors, such as blue, silver, café-au-lait and silver beige may present with a coat that includes hair in various stages of clearing and may appear to have multiple shades until fully cleared. These colors may also include darker pigmented hair in areas where the skin was damaged, the hair grew back, and will need to clear again. While not due to progressive greying, apricot and cream will also sometimes clear unevenly and may maintain a darker pigment on the ears.

In cases where there are only a few barely noticeable white hairs, on the chin, a chest spot, or the toes, then exhibitor may show in standard poodles rather than multi-colored standard poodles.

Disqualification: Any color other than described above; merle coloring. Albinism.

COAT

The Standard Poodle has harsh, dense, curly coat. For conformation exhibition, the coat may be presented naturally, corded, or in one of the clips described below. Quality is never to be sacrificed in favor of grooming skill or the type of clip in which a dog is presented.

Corded – In all clips, cords are tight and of even diameter but varying lengths. Cords may be longer on the mane, body coat, head and ears; shorter on puffs, bracelets and pompons.

Clips - In all clips described below, the hair on the topkull may be left free or held in place by elastic bands, which may not be used elsewhere in the coat. There is no limit to the number of bands used, but they may not go past the occiput. SEE LAST PAGE FOR CLIP ILLUSTRATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

HEIGHT

Over 15 inches, measured at the withers.

GAIT

When trotting, the gait is effortless, smooth, powerful, and well coordinated, showing good reach in front and drive behind. Action is light and springy with head and tail carried up. Poor movement should be penalized to the degree that it reduces the Standard Poodle's ability to perform the tasks it was bred to do.

ELIMINATING FAULTS

(An Eliminating Fault is a Fault serious enough that it eliminates the dog from obtaining any awards in a conformation event.)

15 inches or under in height.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.)

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Albinism.

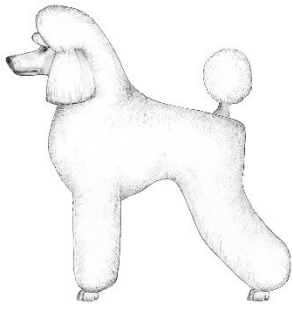
Any color other than described above.

Merle Coloring.

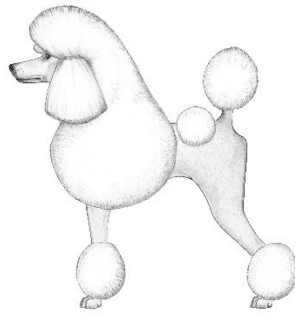
Blue eyes, or any variation of, including flecks and marbling.

The docking of tails and cropping of ears in America is legal and remains a personal choice. However, as an international registry, the United Kennel Club is aware that the practices of cropping and docking have been forbidden in some countries. In light of these developments, the United Kennel Club feels that no dog

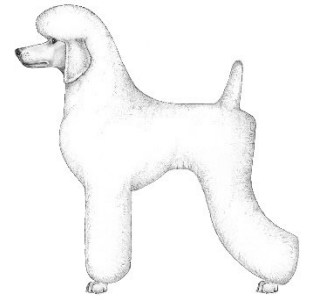
in any UKC event, including conformation, shall be penalized for a full tail or natural ears.



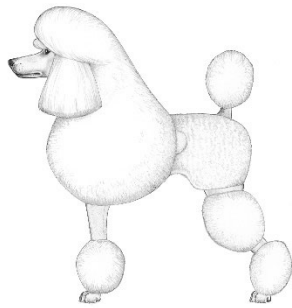
Puppy (above): The coat is long with the face, throat, feet and base of the tail shaved. A pompon shall be left on the end of the tail. The coat may be shaped to give a neat appearance. The puppy trim is commonly used for dogs under one year of age, but dogs of any age may be presented in the puppy trim.



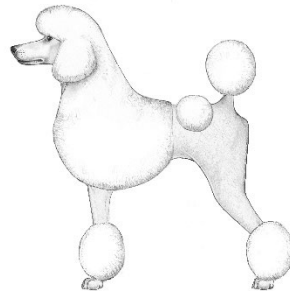
Continental (above): Face, throat, feet, and base of tail are shaved. Hindquarters are shaved with optional pompons over the hips. There is a pompon on the end of the tail. Legs are shaved leaving bracelets on the rear legs and forelegs. A portion of the foreleg and all the rear leg is shaved above the bracelet. The rest of the body is left in full coat but may be shaped for balance.



German (above): Face, feet, and throat are shaved. The ears may be shaved or scissored short. Tail can be shaved or in short blanket of coat. Coat on the top of the head is scissored into a cap. The rest of the body and legs are trimmed following the outline of the dog. The body coat shall be no longer than 1 inch in length. Leg hair may be slightly longer.



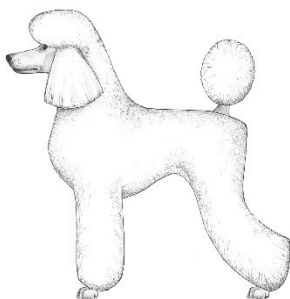
English Saddle (above): The face, throat, feet, forelegs, and base of tail are shaved, leaving bracelets on the forelegs and a pompon on end of the tail. The hindquarters are covered with a short blanket of hair except for a curved shaved area on each flank. Each rear leg is circled by two shaved bands, one just above the stifle and one just above the hock joint. The rest of the body is left in full coat, or shortened, but may be shaped for balance.



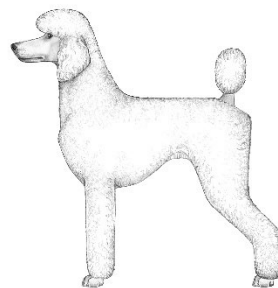
Modified Continental (above): The overall trim is shorter than in the traditional continental and is shaped for balance. The topskull may be banded or scissored into a cap, which may or may not be blended into the ears.



Scandinavian (above): Face, feet, throat, and base of tail are shaved. There is a pompon on the end of the tail. The hind end of the dog is scissored in a short blanket of coat. Legs are scissored to accentuate the dog's natural outline. The rest of the body is left in full coat and is shaped for balance.



Modern (above): Like the Sporting except that coat on head, neck, body, and legs can be left longer and shaped.



Sporting (above): Face, feet, throat, and base of tail are shaved. There is a pompon on the end of the tail. Coat on the top of the head is scissored into a cap. The rest of the body and legs are trimmed following the outline of the dog. The body coat shall be no longer than 1 inch in length. Leg hair may be slightly longer.

