

# • BREED FEATURE • POODLES

**A.1.** John has been breeding Poodles, of all sizes, under the Marsden prefix and now the Coifico Kennel prefix for over 40 years.

After owning and exhibiting Coifico Miniature Poodles now for 18 years, Dayna became a partner in the Coifico prefix in 2007.

Ironically we both lived with English Cocker Spaniels prior to Poodles, however the charming personality, intelligence and the wonderful sight of a well presented Poodle owning the show ring made the Miniature Poodle our chosen breed.



ers to ensure they are purchasing from a reputable and well established pure bred Poodle breeder.

As breeders, we are very conscious of breeding the healthiest puppies for loving families and ensure our dogs are tested for some genetic diseases. Unfortunately our breed can be affected by such diseases as PRA, a genetic eye disease, however reputable breeders do have a DNA test conducted, at least on the parents and/or grandparents, to ensure we are not producing puppies affected by this. Discuss genetic diseases with the breeder to ensure you are getting a happy and healthy puppy.

**John Edwards & Dayna Johnston**  
*Coifico*

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**A.1.** I have been involved with and breeding Poodles for approximately 30 years. I always loved their elegance, fun loving temperament, intelligence and total companionable ways and as I ventured further with this breed the absolute creativity of the clips for showing was so possessing of my Artistic Nature.

**A.2.** I feel our absolute best have definitely improved from a decade ago.

**A.3.** 1. General Breed Specific make and shape. The balance of the whole dog according to the Standard. Short backed and Squarish in outline.

2. Carriage is of absolute importance, maintaining the silhouette of a flowing balanced dog carrying themselves proudly.

3. Drive and Reach always balanced never one end more exaggerated than the other. There must NEVER be a chopping or bobbing of movement. The Poodle must appear as a completely flowing animal with efficient functioning movement.

4. Head is to be balanced refined and well chiselled without any heavy backskull. Full blocking at end of muzzle without snipeyness. Almond dark eye showing fire and intelligence.

5. AND last but not least a dense harsh coat which is perhaps the major breed



characteristic, to crown this beautiful dog in Traditional Trim.

**A.4.** That our Traditional Trims be adhered to, to preserve the Show Poodle as we know it.

**A.5.** Poodles are a total companion. Intelligent and easily trained to any situation with people of any age whether it be living in a mobile home, on a boat or wherever.

## *We asked Breeders*

**Q.1.** How long have you been breeding Poodles? Why are they your chosen breed?

**Q.2.** How do you feel the standard of Poodles today compares with say 10 years ago?

**Q.3.** Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the Poodle?

**Q.4.** If you were able to add a sentence to the Poodle breed standard what would it be?

**Q.5.** Are Poodles good to live with – how do they fit in with the family?

**Q.6.** What would your advice be to a potential puppy buyer when looking for a Poodle?

Great Pets as Therapy dogs or to assist those people with health issues and in Aged Care. The fact that they have a non shedding coat in itself makes a great beginning for any situation.

**A.6.** My advice to puppy purchasers is always the same. Preferably choose a registered breeder who does health testing as required by their Governing Body. Make sure parents have sound temperaments and ask many questions. In general do research on the breed. Go to Conformation Shows/ Members Comps and talk to Breeders.

**Jenny Sculac Jenuin**

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**A.1.** Since 1990 when I purchased my first pet standard poodle but didn't start to seriously compete until 1993 when my first show dog won Puppy in Show at Hobart Royal. Why poodles? I just love their outgoing nature, keen intelligence and elegant look. When they walk in a ring or prance in the backyard, they just demand your attention with their proud carriage and great enthusiasm for life.

**A.2.** Some things have improved and other things have gone backwards. Heads, carriage and coat textures have greatly improved. Many breeders have mixed white and black standard poodles in the last decade or so, although this has mainly been for type and health reasons. Type and health may have improved but quality of coat colour and soundness of construction has suffered, with too many poorly angulated fronts matched with over angulated rears.

**A.3.** The five Ts are the most important points: type, temperament, topline, tail set and total look.

An elegant head with the correct dark almond shaped eye, good carriage and balanced square proportions with adequate length of leg are also important. A poodle must command attention in the ring and move with a light, collected gait. Good coat presentation is the icing on the cake.

**A.4.** The breed standard is very comprehensive but would like to see more emphasis on moderation, not exaggerated in any way. A poodle is a balanced sum of the whole, not a caricature emphasising certain features at the expense of others.

**A.5.** Yes good to live with, just love to be with you and do things, although they can be very boisterous as puppies which



can pose problems for novice dog owners unless firm boundaries are set and everyone in the family follows them. Poodles can sometimes end up as juvenile delinquents through no fault of their own. Responsible breeders should emphasise to new owners the importance of taking a puppy to puppy school between 9 and 16 weeks to socialise them with people and other breeds and undertake a basic obedience course between 4 to 6 months of age, mainly to teach a novice owner how to manage them and ensure their intelligence is put to good use.

**A.6.** Focus on the temperament and health of the parents. Find out what you can about longevity in the lines they are bred from, any diseases the breeder has experienced and the age of onset. Only buy puppies that come from health tested parents. The parents should have had their hips scored and have had a full test panel conducted by a reputable canine genetic testing laboratory.

**Katherine Whiteley Aglaia**

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**A.1.** I have been involved with standard Poodles for nearly 20 years. My introduction to them came via obedience. I wanted to compete in obedience trials and was looking for a highly trainable intelligent dog to do this. I wanted a larger breed so chose a standard Poodle. From the obedience ring I decided that I wanted to give conformation a go. As an

*Continued on page 92*



Grooming the Poodle for a show is 100% proof that what you do during the week will determine what your Poodle will look like on the weekend at shows. The Poodle is a product of care and a strict grooming regime.

Firstly, the most important part of looking after a Poodle coat is the mid week care. I suggest that you bath, depending on colour as to your routine. For example, whites, creams, silvers, blues and blacks use PP Whitening Shampoo.

This shampoo tones unwanted red tones from the coat thus making whites - whiter, creams - removing warm tones, silvers more silver and even in colour, and the same with the blues, with blacks it also takes out any warm reddish tones. Use a mixture for mid week at 10:1 i.e. 10 parts water to one part shampoo.

For your reds, browns and apricots, use PP All Purpose (at a mixture for mid week at 10:1). This shampoo will give you great shine and healthy vigour to the coat.

For your Blacks use PP Black Opal Shampoo. This is the very latest in enhancing black coats and tones any brown/red overtone from the coat. The more you use it, the better the coat looks. If a little bit of black is good, then a lot is even better - this is the blackest black in the business. For best results apply to the worst areas directly and massage in - then mixing at 1 part shampoo : 1 part water (50/50) in a mixing bottle and work through the coat and leave for at least 10 mins before rinsing.

After shampooing, rinse clean and then apply as your final leave in rinse, a mixture of 1 dessertspoon PP Seabreeze Oil, 1 tablespoon of PP Coat Rescue and 1 tablespoon of PP Silk Protein Conditioner. All this is to 4 L (1 gallon) of warm water. The Seabreeze Oil will hydrate the coat and skin plus reduce matting; the PP Coat Rescue will reduce the amount of grooming midweek and also reduce matting by making the coat healthier and stronger and the conditioner will close the hair cuticle after the weekends punishment at the show from the Top Knot preparation. For dogs going through that "oh so NOT fun" coat change period, increase the amount of PP Seabreeze Oil and PP Coat Rescue.

Remember that due to the essential oils in PP Seabreeze Oil, bands breakdown

# BREED FEATURE POODLES

With **CHERYL LECOURT**

quickly. I prefer to wrap and hence no band breaking.

Some coats are better suited to PP Reviva Coat when banding. It all depends on the individual dog and coat. When banding add a golf ball sized amount to your hand and work through the coat, then band that area. This gives the coat needed hydration and reduces stress to the coat. A truly wonderful product. Can also be used on the front poms to reduce pee staining on boys.

Now show prep. My truly favourite shampoo for all Poodles (especially if you have done your mid week shampooing home work) is PP Body Building Shampoo. This gives you the profuse, dense coat that the breed standard requires. Use at 5:1 i.e. 5 parts water to one part shampoo. Depending on the coat and colour, you may add PP Whitening Shampoo or PP All Purpose to the PP Body Building shampoo. Yes you can mix 2 shampoo's together. Plush Puppy's special formula allows you to combine shampoos to get the exact results you require.



For Dry and Brittle coats, use 1 teaspoon of PP Coat Rescue as a conditioner. This product helps rebuild the coat but won't soften or change texture. You may add a small amount of PP Silk Protein Conditioner to the high stress areas such as topknot, neck coat and ears. Dilute 1 teaspoon of PP SP Conditioner to 250mls of warm water. Apply, work in and rinse.

Dry as normal. I always suggest using a P.P. Pin Brush to start. This gets through the coat and has less drag on the hair. Always finish using a gentle PP slicker brush soft and long toothed PP comb. It's important when drying to thoroughly comb the area to get that perfect finish and to make sure the coat is 100% knot and tiny tangle free. This attention to detail will help when scis-

soring to get the exact finish. Drying your Poodle and detail to combing is the key to the perfect finish.

At this stage of the finishing process, one can also help to further improve the appearance of the coats. For instance, use PP Puffy Dog, which is a firm hold styling mousse but is totally water soluble and doesn't build up or get sticky in humidity. This is great for the poms that just don't want to stand up. Same for tails that lack a full and textured look. This can be applied directly to the area and worked in to a coat that is 75% dry. Then finish drying as normal. Also can be used on those sparse ears or poms if needed. Poodles for shows must be 110% dried!

At the show it is important not to apply too much water/moisture to the coat, otherwise all the hours of drying will be to no avail. I use a grooming spray called PP OMG. For most Poodles use 1 cap of the PP OMG Concentrate to a 500 ml spray bottle or 40:1. This helps freshen the coat but will not interfere with any top knot sprays. This is also the best for a grooming spray during the week. Use at double strength as a grooming/detangling spray i.e. 2 caps to 500ml or 20:1.

For topknots we have PP Stuk Up. This is a non-aerosol texture/holding spray. Lightly spray to an area & keep reapplying to the coat/topknot until you have the shape you desire. Wonderful stuff that gives you hold where you need it without using a traditional hair spray.

After the show to break down the top knot, use PP OMG Grooming Spray - it

is not called OMG for nothing - Oh My Goodness, it works!!! This concentrated grooming spray can be made at any mixture strength or purchased as a 500ml spray Ready To Use. I use on knot knots at 1 part concentrate to 20 parts water. The great thing is it allows you to brush out the top knot without damaging the coat. A light spray and use the PP Bristle Brush. The bristle is much kinder on this delicate area. Remember lightly spray and lightly brush - repeat and repeat. Best results use a cool dryer as you brush. Also great to pre apply to topknots and neck coat before bathing as it allows the hairspray to break down quicker and easier.

For those that prefer and I will always advise the best way to maintain your top knots and neck hair, I prefer that the top knot and neck hair to be bathed out after the show. An unknown secret is to pre spray the area with Plush Pet Coat Conditioner as this formula breaks down any hair spray and makes washing out quick and easy. A light spray on the area 10 mins before bathing and it dissolves any residue in the coat.

Now the show has ended and you are home, don't forget to start again with your mid week regime. The work at home determines the finish you get at the shows and with PP, not only will you get the results you want, but save valuable grooming time.

This is a breed that effort reflects results. A grooming routine is key to achieve the coat and finish that we all desire. Plush Puppy has wonderful products that have proven results with top breeder, exhibitors and winners the world over.

**Cheryl Lecourt**

*20% discount on Plush Puppy products to all people attending the Toshi Omura "Smash" Poodle seminar valid at T&G and Gosford*



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## THE POODLE

by Andrew H. Brace

Although the Poodle may have previously acquired a rather unflattering image as a pampered pet with an exotic hairdo, the breed's origins are that of a fully functional working dog totally at home in water. Although it has commonly been referred to as the "French Poodle", it is more likely that the breed actually evolved in Germany, the language of that country giving us the word "pudel" which roughly translates as "to splash about". In France the breed is known as the Caniche ... the duck dog. It descends from the Barbet of which it has conserved many characteristics. In 1743, it was called the "*caniche*": the female of the barbet in French. Thereafter the Barbet and the Caniche (Poodle) were gradually separated and the Barbet survives as a distinct breed. Breeders worked hard to obtain original specimens of uniform colour. The Poodle became very popular as a companion dog because of its friendly, joyful and loyal character and also because of its range of sizes and different colours from which everyone can choose according to their individual preference.

German artist Albrecht Durer featured Poodles in his work in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, whilst 17<sup>th</sup> century engravings show Poodles with their coats distinctively clipped. Whilst the animal-rights brigade of today may mock the show trims sported by modern Poodles as an indignity, the clipping of the Poodle was originally purely functional, with coat being left on to protect the joints when the dog was working in the water.

The breed's original task was to retrieve wildfowl from water and it is highly likely that the ancestors of the Poodle could also figure in the family trees of other water dogs, notably the Portuguese Water Dog. The original Poodles were of the larger size, ruggedly built, yet agile and with a very quick brain. With a water-resistant coat and a natural ability to swim, the Poodle was the perfect wildfowler's dog.

When smaller specimens were produced they were highly prized as companion dogs and then a concerted effort was made by enthusiasts to perpetuate the smaller versions of the larger working dog. By the time of the reign of Louis XVI of France, Toy Poodles were a universally popular companion breed, favoured by the court and nobility.

The show world was quick to embrace the Poodle as not only is the breed naturally extrovert, when presented professionally it is one of the most glamorous of all breeds. In the past some Poodle coats were presented and shown fully corded (just as the Hungarian Puli), but seldom will you find a corded Poodle in the ring today. The traditional show clip for the Poodle was the "lion clip" but these days many exhibitors favour the "continental clip" where the hindquarters are clipped much more closely to the skin. As the Poodle has a dense, single, non-shedding coat it is considered virtually hypoallergen-

genic and therefore is an ideal breed for owners who suffer from allergies caused by pet hair. Obviously the majority of companion Poodles are not kept in elaborate show trims, their owners preferring a much more utilitarian cut that needs restoring just three or four times a year.

The breed was basically established in three sizes – Standard, Miniature and Toy, but in the not too distant past the registry of the Federation Cynologique Internationale accepted a fourth size, giving the breed the extra option of the Medium Poodle. All three or four sizes should be virtually identical in type, shape and balance, and Poodle breeders will always advocate that when you see a photograph of a Poodle standing alone it should be virtually impossible to determine what size it is if it is a great one. Some however may seem that view as somewhat simplistic as there are subtle differences that can only be detected by the discerning eye.

The Poodle head is long, elegant, well chiselled, with long ear leathers (a virtue that is becoming increasingly rare) and a neat, almond eye that gives an expression that is some way between wicked and mischievous. It has a strong but elegantly crested neck, is well ribbed and short coupled, with good angulation front and back. The Poodle has elegant bone that even in the smaller sizes should never appear underdone and spindly, and neat feet. The correct Poodle tail should be set so that the tail comes off the back at a "five past the hour" position and many Poodle fanciers abhor the fact that more and more commonplace is becoming the terrier tailset where the tail is actually inclined forward over the back. This is an ugly fault which unbalances the outline, yet some Poodle exhibitors will openly claim that this incorrect tailset "shortens them up"!

The movement of the Poodle is one of its most impressive features. This is a breed that is very light on its feet, yet still covers ground effortlessly. When I began judging Poodles, my mentor in that breed – Philippe Howard-Price of the famous Montfleuri Miniatures in England – once said to me "When a Poodle comes into the ring, if it doesn't remind you of a ballerina, you never need to look at it again"! Correct movement will of course come from correct construction and to enable a Poodle to move properly it must have sufficient length of upper arm. Many Poodles today lack in this area, having a short upper arm which creates the impression of the forelegs being almost "tacked on" at the forefront of the dog when viewed in profile, rather than being set well under the body and supporting it.

The breed comes in a wide range of solid colours and whilst particolour puppies do appear from time to time no Breed Standard accepts them to date. There was once an attempt to promote the "Harlequin" Poodle, a black and white particolour, but this came to nothing however some breeders in various countries continue to conscientiously breed particolour Poodles which are very popular with some pet owners.

The Poodle is a natural "big ring" dog with an inborn style and charisma of its own. Its extrovert character also appeals to extrovert owners and some of the most colourful characters in the dog world will be found in and around the Poodle rings. The breed accounts for many major wins all over the world and it is seldom that some Poodle or other is not found to be well up in the rankings of all Top Dog competitions. Standards, Toys and Miniatures have accounted for Best in Show awards in the past at shows of the calibre of Crufts and Westminster.

Although their bodies may be hidden under a wealth of hair, the Poodle should still be as well bodied up as any other comparable breed and it often surprises me when judging the breed that so many are brought into the ring ribby, underweight and poorly conditioned. I have often laid hands on a Poodle and pondered that had the same dog been of a smooth-coated breed the owner would not have dared bring it to a show.

The hairdressing in Poodles has become an art and in some cases has progressed a stage further. Whilst no ruling body in the world allows for artificial hair-pieces (known as "switches" in undercover Poodle circles!) it is surprising how frequently they can be found. The sad thing about using such artificial – not to say illegal – aids is that the end result tends to be a dog that looks completely unbalanced and in no way natural.

Whilst generally a healthy breed, Poodles have been affected by PRA, a disease of the eye. Progressive retinal atrophy refers to a group of diseases affecting the retina at the back of the eye. These diseases cause the retinal cells to become increasingly abnormal over time. In most cases, the eventual outcome is blindness. Some form of PRA has been recognized in over 100 dog breeds, including Toy and Miniature Poodles.

PRA is inherited, meaning the disease genes that cause PRA are passed from generation to generation. In Toy and Miniature Poodles, one specific type of inherited PRA predominates, although at least one more type is present at a low frequency in the breed. This predominant form is the progressive rod-cone degeneration (prcd) form of PRA. Rod cells in the retina slowly lose function, with diminished vision in dim light and diminished field of vision. Subsequently, retinal cone cells lose function, resulting in diminished vision in daylight and eventual total blindness. The age of onset and the rate of disease progression are variable among different breeds, within the same breed and within the same litter. In general for Toys and Miniatures, diagnosis of prcd-PRA is made around 3 years of age, based on an eye exam by a veterinary ophthalmologist. Some prcd-PRA affected dogs retain some useful vision throughout life, while others progress to blindness in mid-life. Unfortunately, there is no treatment or cure for PRA.

A DNA test offered by OptiGen is available to detect the genetic mutation that causes prcd-PRA in dogs. The dis-

order is inherited as a "simple recessive," meaning that affected dogs have two copies of the abnormal gene. The DNA test is used to identify Toy and Miniature Poodles as clear, carrier (one copy of the abnormal gene and one normal gene) or affected. Identification of breeding animals carrying or affected with prcd-PRA is essential to avoid producing affected offspring. For more on the test and its use in breeding decisions, see the OptiGen site ([www.optigen.com](http://www.optigen.com)).

Not all retinal disease is PRA and not all PRA is the form currently detectable by DNA testing in our breed. Accurate diagnosis is essential. A dog can test as prcd-PRA normal or carrier, yet be affected by a different type of PRA. Yearly eye examinations should be done on breeding dogs by a veterinary ophthalmologist, even after prcd-PRA testing by OptiGen. The Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) maintains a registry.

Today the Poodle world is a truly cosmopolitan one. Breeders of all sizes have a much greater awareness of what is going on in other countries and frequently cooperate, enhancing each other's breeding programmes. Similar breeding, particularly in Standard Poodles, will often be found in the USA, Canada, South America, the UK, Scandinavia, Europe and Australia. In recent years Asia has become a real stronghold of white Toy Poodles with Japan seeing several world-class breeders emerging whose stock has won top honours around the world.

Although numbers may not be as strong as they once were, particularly in the Miniatures, the breed remains popular as a show dog and companion in its pure form, even with the advent of the "Labradoodle" and other first-generation crosses that have become fashionable with the novelty-minded.

**Kennel Club Poodle Sizes:**

**Standard Poodles:** Over 38 cms (15 inches)

**Miniature Poodles:** Under 38 cms (15 ins) but not under 28 cms (11 ins)

**Toy Poodles:** Under 28 cms (11 ins)

**FCI Poodle Sizes:**

**Standard Poodles:** Over 45cm up to 60cm with a tolerance of +2cm. The Standard Poodle must be the enlarged and developed replica of the Medium Poodle of which it retains the same characteristics.

**Medium Poodles:** Over 35 cm up to 45cm.

**Miniature Poodles:** Over 28cm up to 35cm. The Miniature Poodle must display the appearance of a reduced Medium Poodle, retaining as much as possible the same proportions and without presenting any sign of dwarfism.

**Toy Poodles:** Over 24 cm up to 28 cm (sought after ideal: 25cm) (with a tolerance of -1cm). The Toy Poodle maintains, in its ensemble, the aspect of a Miniature Poodle and the same general proportions complying with all the points of the standard. Any sign of dwarfism is excluded; only the occipital protuberance may be less pronounced.



# BREED FEATURE POODLES

## They answered

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exhibitor I have been fortunate as I have always had very good dogs to show and very good mentors both locally and overseas. I still enjoy the challenges of the obedience ring as well as the conformation ring. As far as breeding goes, I have had a few false starts so haven't bred much at all.



Jo Turnley

Making decisions not to breed certain dogs for health reasons and missed AIs are some of the disappointments I have endured. Breeding healthy puppies with good temperaments is my objective. If they are also good enough for the show ring then that is a very big plus.

**A.2.** Ten years ago there were certainly more standard Poodles being exhibited and breeders endeavouring to breed good quality dogs. Presentation of the Poodle even ten years ago was quite different to what it is now. It has become more stylised. In some instances I would have to say that the breed standard has been somewhat compromised as incorrect dogs and in the case of toys and miniatures, large dogs, are sometimes rewarded in the show ring. Underneath all that hair, the structure of a Poodle is to me a very basic dog. This is sometimes forgotten if the breed standard isn't remembered and adhered to. Many of the successful dogs of years gone by were to me very "honest" dogs with many of the breed characteristics evident. Today we are extremely fortunate to have various health tests available, particularly the DNA tests, that can assist us in our breeding programs.

**A.3.** As I just mentioned, underneath the hair, a Poodle is a very basic dog construction wise and all three varieties have the same breed standard.

What is important to me and I believe should always be considered is type and temperament. To rank one part of the breed standard ahead of another is not easy. To me balance is extremely important, that is, balance front to rear and the overall picture that a well balanced Poodle should present.

Let's not forget the functionality of the breed and what it was bred for. This then gives rise to the importance of the lay of shoulder, body, short back and rear construction including tail set. Of course front

to rear balance should be evident. I also love a good head, which should be in proportion to the rest of the body.

The eyes, "full of fire and intelligence". A Poodle must always have carriage and always, always have a good temperament. The latter of course should be applied to any breed, as no one likes to see their chosen breed in the conformation ring or any situation with tail down and afraid or aggressive. The breed is an elegant breed. With standard Poodles, often bigger heavier dogs lose the elegance that is required. How a dog uses himself is also interesting. I have seen some of the best put together dogs let me down on the move and vice versa. I'm sure this is true of any breed!

**A.4.** It wouldn't necessarily be adding something else to the current breed standard but more recalling what the Poodle was bred to do. Like many dogs he was bred to do a job. I would love to see Poodles in this country to be able to compete in hunting trials. I have had the opportunity to witness this several times on trips to the Poodle Club of America Hunt Tests. To be able to see a Poodle do what it was bred to do is a picture I will never forget. This should resonate the breed standard through any breeders' mind. Sadly it also points out numbers of Poodles that couldn't retrieve a duck and swim with it in its' mouth.

**A.5.** Poodles are a high maintenance breed and must be regularly groomed, even as family companions. They do however make the most wonderful companion dogs. They fit in with a family because they must be included with the family. For those with obvious allergy issues, Poodles enable many to have a dog when they may not ordinarily be able to do so. Their intelligence, willingness to please and versatility makes them an ideal family companion. On top of this, they come in 3 sizes and 8 colours, so there is something for everyone.

**A.6.** For anyone looking for any breed definitely to go through the breed Club. I always suggest to potential buyers to speak to as many breeders as possible and visit as many as possible.

Ask a breeder is there anyone in their neighbourhood who may have a dog they have bred. Seeing "family" is a great insight especially for temperament. At the end of the day every breeders' objective should be to breed healthy puppies with good temperaments.

Jo Turnley Poshnoir

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**A.1.** My first litter of Poodles was born in 2007, so we are coming up to our 7 year anniversary in September. For as long as I can remember my family had Miniature Poodles so I have always had a love for the breed, their intelligent and friendly characteristics. The artistic side of me was also drawn by the grooming and trimming of this lovely breed.

**A.2.** I think that Poodles have maintained a prominent profile in the conformation ring because if the high quality of animal that they are.

Here in Australia in my time of showing (12 years) we have had beautiful examples of the breed who have graced the ring and taken Best in Show at Australia's presti-

## We asked Breeders

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gious Royal Shows. When I first started showing the beautiful Gr Ch Jurado Top Shelf, owned by Boyd/ Foulds was dominating in the Eastern States, shortly thereafter, a beautiful Black male Gr Ch Voila



Jacqui Ainsworth

Canadian Club owned by Lance Wright captured many hearts and won record numbers of BIS's at the highest levels. No-one could forget the beautiful Gr Ch Smash JP Jackpot who took the country by storm under the expert hands of Simon Briggs, and currently of course we have Sup Ch Huffish Dynamite Street with owner Camilla Tell and Brett Hamilton breaking records all over Australia.

So at an All Breeds level I think Poodles have maintained a sound level of the breed Standard showing excellence that the Poodle fraternity should be proud of. Locally here in Western Australia over the past 10 years, litter sisters, Gr Ch Retsae Come What May owned by Helen White and Tracie Easter and my own Sup Ch Retsae Esperit de Lune were both Royal BIS winners and produced Poodles who have been strong contenders at the highest level of competition at our States most prestigious show though out this time under my own prefix and in their own right.

**A.3.** An interesting question, as it would not necessarily be the same order of priority for judging as it would be for selecting your own dog, where consideration for health and much greater time for assessing temperament is allowed.

A Poodle should be beautiful both standing and moving. There should be a distinctive air about them, so it is hard for me to separate Conformation, Movement and Carriage for my number 1 position. The Poodle should have a straight forward action, a dog on three or even four

tracks is a big No No, the standard calls for sound effortless movement. The typical light springy action partly results from correct proportions.

Balance between the front and rear usually come hand in hand with the required head carried high with slight arch of neck. A jutted forward head and kick out behind are pet peeves of mine and not what the standard calls for.

A good temperament and attitude can make all the difference in the world and would have to be my number 4. A beautiful dog with a bad temperament should leave judges disinterested. The breed should be friendly but proud and dignified, they should never be shy or flighty.

In number 5, I would have to say the unmistakable Presence that can take ones breath away. Some dogs just command your attention, certainly something that our No.1 dog for the breed and indeed the country has in spades. Love him or not, no one could miss "Lex", as he is like a big black stallion quietly demanding attention.

**A.4.** Probably, just a reminder that the breed is not one of moderation, a term I have heard used a lot in the past few years. The standard most definitely calls for particular things to be moderate, for example, a moderate tuck or a moderate stop, but not to confuse moderate with exaggerated.

**A.5.** I truly believe that Poodles really are fabulous for families, and coming in three different varieties there is one to suit most families' needs. Besides the obvious advantages of being non coat dropping and good for those with allergies. Having children myself, they are great companions for kids.

They are just as happy on a beach, a farm, playing in a suburban back yard or lazing on the couch. As kids I remember the hours of fun my sister and I had playing dress up on our Poodles and teaching them endless tricks which they were always more than happy to learn. I feel safe at home if I am alone as they are great guard dogs, but also very friendly with guests.

**A.6.** Health is usually the first thing I talk about. Testing is such an important part of any breeding program, and although does not guarantee no problems will arise,

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# • BREED FEATURE • POODLES

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it helps to try and ensure the safe keeping of our breed. Grooming and time for a potential Puppy buyers are also important.

Poodles are people dogs and don't thrive in an isolated existence, and of course time grooming a Poodle can be one of great pleasure for both owners and their dogs. Purchasing a Poodle for the conformation ring requires patience and dedication and any newcomer requires assistance to learn the art of grooming and handling. The great thing about starting with a Puppy is that the hair takes time to grow so there is an adjust time for learning to cope with maintaining the coat.

**Jacqui Ainsworth Artizan**

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**A.1.** I have bred and shown Poodles for 42 years under my CHEZJOLIE prefix. Mainly Toys, although I bred and exhibited Miniatures in the 80s, until the gene pool was affected by PRA.

I chose Poodles because my eldest son became asthmatic, so I was attracted to Poodle as a non-shedding breed.

**A.2.** The Top Poodles shown today would certainly hold their own against the Top Poodles of yesteryear. As well as being healthier due to the breed specific DNA

testing of today.

**A.3.** Carriage (head up, tail up) and attitude (Poodle active and intelligent).

2. Correct size for each variety, with



**Cathy Camac**

appropriate bone and substance.

3. Good head piece, with correct body shape, short back and high set tail.

4. Sound with a free and light gait.

5. Profuse harsh textured coat, and

## *We asked Breeders*

Q.1. How long have you been breeding Poodles? Why are they your chosen breed?

Q.2. How do you feel the standard of Poodles today compares with say 10 years ago?

Q.3. Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the Poodle?

Q.4. If you were able to add a sentence to the Poodle breed standard what would it be?

Q.5. Are Poodles good to live with – how do they fit in with the family?

Q.6. What would your advice be to a potential puppy buyer when looking for a Poodle?

would like to see our Traditional Lion Clip ,( English Saddle or Continental). to be strictly adhered to. Meaning!!!! After 12mths our dogs should be in one of these trims, particularly for in Group and in Show awards

**A.4.** I would like to add “up on leg” as too many appearing low on leg therefore losing the required elegance.

**A.5.** They are the family, and we all

should fit in with them.

**A.6.** They are not a dog to be bought and left in a yard. They are members of a family in every sense of the word and need to be so. And because we have the luxury of the non shedding coat, pet people must realise this breed needs to be trimmed, bathed and groomed regularly 6-8 weekly.

**Cathy Camac Chezjolie**

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