

## Poodle (Toy)



There are three sizes of Poodle - Toy, Miniature and Standard - all in a wide range of beautiful solid colours. The Poodle's coat does not shed, but regular grooming is essential. For the fashion-conscious there are many different styles in which he can be clipped. A dandy at heart, he will always show his appreciation when his toilette has been completed. He is a clown by nature who gives amusement and devotion to his owners. Because he is capable of learning quickly, and enjoys showing off, the French circus utilised his abilities, and the Poodle became a popular entertainer. Today these characteristics stand him in good stead in the showing. Extremely versatile, he excels in obedience, has a history as a water and retrieving dog, and was adept at searching out the gourmet's delight of truffles. In fact there seems no end to his talents.

All three varieties of Poodle have their country of origin listed as France but Germany is believed to have been their actual home, the breed entering France with German soldiers. It came from the marshes of Germany and at one time the Poodle was well established as a water retriever. The French certainly know the Poodle as a duck dog and the smaller Poodles were used to sniff out truffles.

Interest in the breed was heightened by the courts of Europe where they became very popular as pet dogs, especially the two smaller varieties. Early show Poodles were exhibited with a corded coat.

Lighthearted, with a happy nature, elegant, friendly and high-spirited, his sporting and home-loving instincts all combine to make him the ideal companion.

### **What about Health Issues?**

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

**Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:**  
[www.the Kennel Club.org.uk/doghealth](http://www.the Kennel Club.org.uk/doghealth)

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

### **And what health screening is relevant for the Poodle (Toy)?**

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme
- DNA Test - PRA

This list is not necessarily comprehensive and you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.