

Poodle Fact Sheet

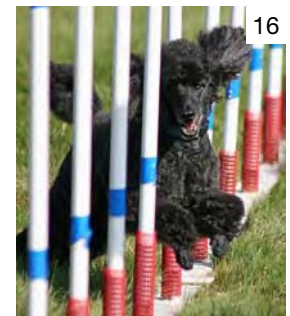
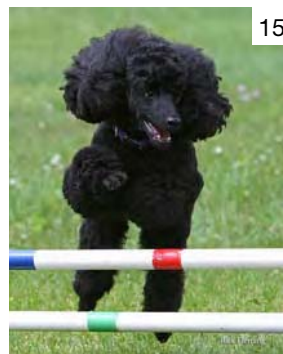
In the recent American Kennel Club® (AKC) poll at www.presidentialpup.com about what breed of dog is best for the Obama family, the poodle won out as the breed of choice. Despite this vote of confidence and its overall popularity –it's the 8th most popular breed registered by the AKC – the breed suffers from an image problem among people who can't see past the poodle's pouf. But underneath all that hair, there's an intelligent, athletic dog that excels at all canine activities and has a long, proud history. Not just a breed for "the ladies who lunch," this breed is beauty with brains. Here are some surprising facts about the versatile poodle:

- Despite their glamorous looks, Poodles were originally bred to retrieve water fowl. They retain characteristics such as webbed feet and a dense, water repellent coat that makes them suitable for that task still today but their superior intelligence and gregarious personalities make them more common as companions than hunting dogs.
- The Poodle's fancy haircut evolved as a way to lighten their coat and give the dogs more mobility in water. Legs and hindquarters were shaved so the dogs could move freely without a lot of hair weighing them down. Puffs of coat left around the joints and over the kidneys kept those areas warm and protected. Hair around the neck and chest protected heart and lungs.
- Contrary to what many people believe, the Poodle originated in Germany – not France -- and the name is derived from the German word 'pudel' or 'pudelin,' meaning to splash in the water.
- The Toy Poodle achieved great popularity in France and was known worldwide as a "trick dog." They were court favorites during the reign of Louis XVI and Queen Anne.
- For the Poodle, beauty and brains go together. Poodles are exceptionally smart and excel in obedience training. For instance a Poodle is 6th in this year's "Top Obedience Dogs" rankings while another is the 13th ranked Top Obedience Dog of all time.
- The Poodle is one of the [hypoallergenic breeds](#) recommended by the AKC for those who suffer from allergies. Their coat requires regular professional grooming every four to six weeks.
- Great leaders such as Winston Churchill and Grover Cleveland owned Poodles.
- Poodles are currently the eighth most popular breed registered in the United States, according to 2007 American Kennel Club registration statistics. The breed enjoyed a long reign as the most popular dog for 23 years (1960-1982), the longest any breed has held that position consecutively -- a true testament to its suitability as a family pet.
- Poodles come in three varieties:
 - The Toy – a dog less than ten inches tall at the shoulder;
 - The Miniature – a dog more than ten inches but less than 15 inches at the shoulder; and
 - The Standard – a dog more than 15 inches at the shoulder.

- All three varieties of Poodles can be seen competing (and winning) in obedience, rally, agility, and tracking tests. In 1997, Standard Poodles were allowed in hunting tests and miniature poodles today compete in water retrieving trials.
- When asked “Why a Poodle?” the late Anne Rogers Clark (the first woman to win Best in Show at Westminster) often replied: “They are Labradors with college educations. After a day of retrieving, your Lab wants to curl up in front of the fireplace and take a well deserved nap. A Poodle wants to be fourth at the bridge table and tell naughty stories!”
- Two Standard Poodles have recently been awarded the prestigious [Awards for Canine Excellence \(ACE\)](#) by the AKC.
 - Cara, honored in 2002, is a therapy dog whose front leg was amputated after a bout with cancer. "Cara's life changed forever, but her positive attitude endured. She survived by all odds and began spreading cheer by example." A therapy dog for eight years, Cara has an uncanny knack for reaching people.
 - Noodle, honored in 2005, also works as a therapy dog in a special education school. The students and staff fell in love with Noodle and together submitted multiple nominations for the ACE awards. Numerous written testimonials were received, many of them from the children in their own words. Others who could not write drew pictures of their beloved Noodle.

For more information on Poodles visit www.akc.org or <http://www.poodleclubofamerica.org>
Press contacts: AKC Communications 212-696-8343 and communications@akc.org

The Poodle: The People's Choice for Presidential Pooch



1. Photograph courtesy of Parrishill Standard Poodles of Standard Poodle "Django," Parrishill Ukulele Django Hartland and Maguelone visiting from France. "Django is owned by Jessie Hartland.
2. Photograph courtesy of Parrishill Standard Poodles of Standard Poodle, "Tucker," Parrishill Bright Day and friends. Owner wishes to remain anonymous.
3. Photograph courtesy of Mia DiBenedetto of Standard Poodle "Ten," Bibelot Tolka's Hands Up and Jack Combs. "Ten" is owned by Mia DiBenedetto and Jack Combs.
4. Photograph courtesy of Jennifer Pilkerton-Casteel of Standard Poodle "Primo," Tudorose Primo Bravissimo, UDX times 3! "Primo is owned by Linda Rhodes.
5. Photograph courtesy of Judith Galgoczy of Standard Poodle, "Oliver," Parrishill Oliver Rupert and Zoe Galgoczy. "Oliver" is owned by the Galgoczy Family.
6. Photograph courtesy of Greg Smith, PPA, Garden Studio, Inc. of Standard Poodle "Tag," AKC CH. Beauciel Orion Dartagnan. "Tag" is owned by Dr. and Mrs. William Crawley.
7. Photograph courtesy of Cara Hai Standard Poodles of Standard Poodle "Deanna," AKC CH. Cara Hai Deanna, NAP, NJP, OAP. "Deanna" is owned by Caroline Hair.
8. Photograph courtesy of Darla Hook of Toy Poodle "Cash," Dream Pickets Cashing In, RN, NJC, TG-N, CGC. "Cash" is owned by Julie Wilson.
9. Photograph courtesy of Julie Wilson of Toy Poodle "Keegan," Paradise Over The Top, CGC and Denny Wilson. "Keegan" is owned by Katherine Wilson.
10. Photograph courtesy of Ron Pernicka of Standard Poodle "Reigner," CT Tudorose Bold Reign VCDIII, RE, JH, WCX, HTADsI and Carol Pernicka. "Reigner" is owned by Carol Pernicka.
11. Photograph courtesy of Wendy Spivak of Standard Poodle "Chloe," Beauciel Cassiopia Blanche and Jerry Spivak. "Chloe" is owned by Dr. And Mrs. Jerry Spivak.
12. Photograph courtesy of Cara Hai Standard Poodles of Standard Poodle "Deanna," AKC CH. Cara Hai Deanna, NAP, NJP, OAP. "Deanna" is owned by Caroline Hair.
13. Photograph courtesy of Linda V. Rooker of Standard Poodle "Token," Can CH. Kimelle Forever In Brown Genes, CD and Kim Savor. "Token" is owned by Kim Savor.
14. Photograph courtesy of The Poodle Health Registry, an online database for genetic health issues in all varieties of Poodles, of the late Susan Fleisher, Ellie and Standard Poodle "Cricket."
15. Photograph courtesy of Rick Fleming of Miniature Poodle "T," AKC CH. U-CD Ravendune Right On Target, AM/Can CD, RE, MX, MXJ, NF. "T" is owned by Cathi Winkles.
16. Photograph courtesy of Linda Brady of Miniature Poodle "Q," AKC CH. OTCH MACH 5 Ravendune Right On Q, UDX, RE, NF, WC. "Q" is owned by Cathi Winkles.