

POODLE – all sizes

GROUP: *Toy* is in the toy class; *Miniature* and *Standard* are non-sporting.

SIZE:

Toy: up to and including 11 inches. *Miniature:* over 11 inches up to and including 16 inches. *Standard:* over 16 inches. Weight should be in proportion to height for all sizes.

COAT:

Harsh, dense, curly coat; may be presented naturally, corded, or in one of the traditional clips (English Saddle, Continental clip, or Sporting clip); natural coat should be over one inch in length, but not full length over entire body—long enough to accurately judge the quality of the coat.

COLOR:

Any color allowed, including parti-color, is acceptable; no penalty for color variation.

HEAD:

Proportionate to the size of the dog; skull is roughly parallel to muzzle with slight but definite stop; skull is long and moderately rounded on top; length of skull from occiput to stop should be approximately the same in length as from the stop to end of muzzle. head should show the dignity and intelligence of the Poodle.

Muzzle: Long, straight, and fine with slight chiseling under the eyes to display the muscle of the mandible; strong without excess looseness of the lip; not snippy. ***Serious fault: lack of chin.***

Eyes: Very dark, almond shaped with dark rims; set on head at a distance and angle to create an alert, intelligent expression; liver color eyes and rims allowed depending on coat color. ***Serious faults: Eyes round, protruding, large, of uneven size, slits, yellow iris; eye and eye rim colors wrong for coat color; eye rim pigment incomplete.***

Ears: Hang close to the head with the top of the ear in line with or very slightly below the corner of the eyes; ear leather is long, wide, thickly feathered, but not rounded; no excessive length or feathering. ***Fault: Triangular ear leather.***

Nose: Black or liver depending on coat color. ***Serious faults: Nose pigment incomplete or wrong color for coat color.***

Bite: Scissors bite with strong white teeth. ***Serious faults: Undershot, overshot, or wry mouth.***

NECK:

Well proportioned, strong and long enough to permit the head to be carried high and with dignity; skin snug at throat; neck rises from strong, smoothly shoulders. ***Serious faults: Ewe neck; short, bull neck.***

Body:

The square body is measured by length of the body from the point of the breastbone to the point of the rump equal to the height from the highest point of the shoulders to the ground; should be in good weight, condition, and in balance with the height; short, broad, and muscular loin. Topline should be level; Chest is deep and moderately wide with well-sprung ribs allowing for strong lungs. ***Serious faults: Weedy; extremely fine boned, or coarse, heavily boned.***

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Forelegs straight and parallel when viewed from the front; viewed from the side, the elbow is directly below the highest point of the shoulder; strong pasterns; strong, smoothly muscled shoulders with shoulder blade well laid back and approximating the same length as the upper foreleg.

Hind legs should have angulation to balance that of forequarters; straight and parallel when view from the rear; muscular hindquarters with width in the region of the well bent stifles; femur and tibia are about equal in length; hock to heel is short and perpendicular to the ground. ***Serious faults: Steep shoulders; cow hocks; excessive muscular development.***

Feet: Relatively small, oval in shape, and compact with toes well arched and cushioned on thick firm pads; turn neither in nor out when viewed from the front or back; trimmed nails and dark or liver depending on coat color; rear toes should be slightly behind the line of the rump when standing. **Serious faults: Thin pads; flat or splay foot.**

Tail: Straight from base, set on high and carried up whether standing or moving; docked of sufficient length to insure balanced outline, but overall quality not judged by length of tail. **Serious faults: Tail carried over back; low set tail; curled tail.**

MOVEMENT:

Sound movement and carriage; should have an air of distinction and dignity peculiar to the breed.

TEMPERAMENT:

Should be sound in mind as well as body; should carry itself proudly with intelligence; affectionate; wary of strangers.

Coat clips:

PUPPY: A Poodle under one year of age may be shown in the "Puppy" clip with the coat long. The face, throat, feet and the face of the tail may be shaved. The entire foot should be visible. A pompom may or may not be on the end of the tail. Shaping of the body coat is permitted or it may be shown in a sporting clip.

NATURAL: A Poodle may be shown in a natural coat left one inch or longer, but not full length when it becomes tangled or unmanageable. Feet should be visible.

ENGLISH SADDLE: The face, throat, feet, forelegs, and base of the tail are shaved, leaving puffs on the forelegs and a pompom on the end of the tail. The hindquarters are covered with a short blanket of hair except for a curved shaved area on each kidney area with two shaved bands on each hind leg. The foot is visible with a shaven leg above the puff. The rest of the body is left in full coat, but may be shaped in order to insure overall balance.

CONTINENTAL CLIP: The face, throat, feet, base of the tail are shaved. The hindquarters are shaved with optional pompoms on hips. The legs are shaved, leaving bracelets on the hind legs and puffs on the forelegs. There is a pompom on the end of the tail. The entire shaven foot and a portion of the shaven foreleg above the puff are visible. The rest of the body is left in full coat, but may be shaped in order to insure overall balance.

SPORTING CLIP: A Poodle of any age can be shown with the face, feet, throat, and base of tail shaved, leaving a scissored cap on the top of the head and a pompom on the end of the tail. The rest of the body and legs are clipped or scissored to follow the outline of the dog, leaving a short blanket of coat no longer than one inch in length over the body and legs. The coat must be of a length to show texture and density.

In all clips the hair of the topknot may be left free or held in place by elastic bands. "Topknot" refers only to hair on the skull from the stop to the occiput. No elastic bands may be used past the occiput.

All cuts are equally acceptable in the APRI show ring.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.

Disqualifications:

Sizes outside of declared standard.

Extreme viciousness or shyness.

Use of artificial substances, colors, or hairpieces on coat.

Albinism.