

Are You a Poodle Person?

Find out if the Poodle dog breed is for you?

Poodle people are as distinctive a breed as the Poodle himself! Many a Poodle person grew up with Poodles, with Poodles being a part of the family life for generations. Other people are drawn to the Poodle because of his glamour and drama! Poodles are born entertainers, whether they are jumping through hoops, whirling around the show ring or just grinning pompon to pompon.

So, before you enter into the elite fraternity of Poodlephiles, you must give some thought to the personality and characteristics of this breed to determine if the Poodle is really the dog for you. This is not a pet for the laid-back owner who will not give the dog the training, the attention and the grooming that he deserves. This is a dog for the individual who is looking for an active, intelligent dog, a pet that will become a devoted companion and a true part of the family. He will want to be with you at all times and he will want to please you. Unlike dogs that can happily go their own way, the Poodle wants your attention! He is a bright dog that wants to please his owner. He is easy to train, will make an excellent watchdog and will be extremely loyal to the family.

You should answer the following questions before purchasing a Poodle:

1. **Do you have the time to give to a dog?** He will need care, companionship, training and grooming. throughout his entire lifetime.
2. **Do you have a fenced yard for your Poodle?** He must have a secure area in which to run and exercise.
3. **Have you owned a dog previously and did that dog live a long and happy life with your family?**
4. **Are you prepared to have a dog in your house that may weigh up to 75 pounds or weigh as little as 5 pounds?** Each size has special needs.
5. **Do you have time to groom your dog?** In order to have a Poodle that looks like a Poodle, and because of the heavy coat, he will need at least a weekly grooming (brushing) to avoid mats. If you are unable to clip and trim the Poodle yourself, will you have the time and money for a professional groomer?



Let's take each question one at a time:

1. **Having time for a dog does not mean that you cannot work and own a dog.** Your pet will need quality time, though. He must be fed on schedule and exercised several times a day. For the Standard Poodle, that means at least a long walk or a good romp in the morning and the evening. All Poodles need to be loved and will enjoy rides in the car with you. You must work with your Poodle to

have an obedient dog with good manners.

2. **A fenced yard will give your dog ample space.** Never let him out loose to run the neighborhood. Remember, it is your responsibility to keep the yard clean of feces. When walking your dog, it is essential to carry a plastic bag or two to pick up droppings.

3. **Previous dog ownership will give you a good idea of what a dog expects from you and what you must do for your dog.** The Poodle is smart and needs an owner that is equally as smart as, or smarter than, he is!

4. **The Standard Poodle is a large dog, not like a Miniature or Toy Poodle who will sit on your lap.** The Standard will take up a fair amount of space, whether on the sofa next to you or riding in the car. He will need ample room to run in his fenced-in yard, and he must have a crate that is large enough for him to be comfortable. The Toy Poodle, because of his tiny size, can be difficult to own if you have small children who like to roughhouse with a pet. The Miniature is average-sized and easy to fit into any household, although kids must still handle him with extreme care.

5. **Grooming a heavily coated breed is nearly a constant job.** The Standard, because he has more square inches to cover, requires the most time. If you do not groom (brush) regularly, your dog will become matted, dirty and smelly, and the grooming job will be considerable. Left long enough, you will have to take the dog to a groomer and have him shaved down. You want your dog to look like a Poodle, and a healthy one at that!

Poodle Overview

Is the Poodle dog breed right for you?

1. The Poodle is a special breed for a special breed of people! The rewards of Poodle ownership are many if you can devote the time and attention that the breed needs.

2. The Poodle is extraordinary in many ways: beauty, intelligence, adaptability and athleticism in a loyal and loving companion.

3. With the Poodle, you have three sizes from which to choose, promising the same delightful dog from large to small.

4. Your lifestyle, living environment and family life will play deciding factors in which variety is best for you.

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