

POODLE (MINIATURE / STANDARD / TOY)

The three varieties of this breed are judged separately and may each be awarded Challenge Certificates and/or FCI-C.A.C.I.B.s® (Certificate d'Aptitude au Championnat International).

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025



ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 172]

Etymologically, the French word “caniche” (Poodle) comes from “cane”, the French word for a female duck. In other countries, the name of the breed is associated with splashing around in water. Originally, this dog was used for wild-fowling. 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. Breeders worked hard to obtain original subjects 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 four sizes [ed. applicable to FCI shows only: Standard (45cm – 60cm); Medium (35cm – 45cm); Miniature (28cm – 35cm); Toy over 24cm), and different colours, which everyone can choose according to preference.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced, elegant looking, with very proud carriage.

CHARACTERISTICS

Distinguished by a special type of clip for show activity and by a type of coat that does not moult.

TEMPERAMENT

Gay-spirited and good-tempered.

HEAD

Long and fine with slight peak. Skull not broad, moderate stop. Foreface strong, well-chiselled, not falling away under eyes. Cheek bones and muscle flat. Lips tight-fitting. Chin well-defined but not protruding. Head in proportion to size of dog.

Eyes:

Almond-shaped, dark eyes, not set too close together, full of fire and intelligence. Eye colour - see 'colour' below.

Ears:

Leathers long and wide, set low, hanging close to face.

Mouth:

Jaws strong with perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. A full set of 42 teeth is desirable.

NECK

Well-proportioned, of good length, and strong to admit the head being carried high and with dignity. Skin fitting tightly at the throat.

FOREQUARTERS

Well-laid shoulders, strong and muscular. Legs set straight from shoulders, well-muscled.

BODY

Chest deep and moderately wide. Ribs well-sprung and rounded. Back short, strong, slightly hollowed; loins broad and muscular.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs well-developed and muscular; well-bent stifles, hocks well let down; hind legs turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Tight, proportionately small, oval in shape, turning neither in nor out, toes arched, pads thick and hard, well-cushioned. Pasterns strong.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

- **Docked:** set on rather high, carried at slight angle away from the body, never curled or carried over back, thick at root.
- **Undocked:** Thick at root, set on rather high, carried away from the body and as straight as possible.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Sound, free, and light movement essential, with plenty of drive.

COAT

Very profuse and dense, of good harsh texture. All short hair close, thick, and curly. All traditional trims permissible in the show ring and the dogs judged on equal merit, as long as there is sufficient length to demonstrate colour and quality of coat.

COLOUR

All solid colours.

- **White and creams:** To have black nose, lips, and eye-rims, black toenails desirable.
- **Browns:** To have dark amber eyes, dark liver nose, lips, eye-rims, and toenails.
- **Apricots and reds:** To have dark eyes with black points or deep amber eyes with liver points.
- **Blacks, silvers and blues:** To have black nose, lips, eye-rims and toenails.

* Creams, apricots, reds, browns, silvers and blues may show varying shades of the same colour up to 18 months.

* Clear colours preferable. Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

[ed. at FCI shows, in addition to the four sizes being eligible to win CACIBs, there is also a colour eligibility, namely Brown, Black, or White; and Grey or Fawn.]

SIZE

- **Standard Poodle:** height at shoulder should be over 38cm (approx. 15").
- **Miniature Poodle:** height at shoulder should be under 38cm (approx. 15") but not under 28cm (approx. 11").
- **Toy Poodle:** height at shoulder should be under 28cm (approx. 11").

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

*Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 172: CANICHE (POODLE)

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 2.1. Poodle .

Without working trial.

[ed. For interest, from FCI Breed Standard No. 172]

Addition to standard

Judging a Poodle in a show does not mean it is judged in a grooming contest. It is not encouraged to stimulate over-grooming one's dog.

Authorised show clips

- **“Lion Clip”**: The Poodle, whether curly or corded, shall be clipped on the hindquarters up to the ribs. Also clipped: the muzzle, above and underneath from the lower eyelids; the cheeks; the forelegs, and hind legs, except for the cuffs or bracelets and optional motifs on the hindquarters; the tail, except for round or oblong terminal pom-pom. A moustache is required for all subjects. Leaving hair, called “trousers”, on the forelegs is admitted.
- **“Modern Clip”**: Leaving hair on all four legs is only admitted on condition that the following norms are respected:
 1. Shall be clipped:
 - a) The lower part of the forelegs, from the nails to the tip of the dew-claw, the lower part of the hind legs to the same height. Machine clipping, limited to the toes only, is admitted.
 - b) The head and the tail in compliance with rules described above. Shall be exceptionally admitted in this clip:
 - The presence, under the lower jaw, of short hair no longer than 1cm, the lower line of which should be cut parallel to the lower jaw. A beard, called “goat's beard”, is not permitted.
 - The suppression of the pom-pom on the tail.
 2. Shortened coat:
 - a) Over the body, in order to give “shot silk” effect on the line of the back, more-or-less long but at least 1cm. The length shall be gradually increased over the ribs and above the limbs.
 3. Neatened coat:
 - c) On the head that keeps a topknot of reasonable height, as well as down behind the neck to the withers and the front, without discontinuity, to the shaven part of the foot, following a slightly slanting line from the top of the forehead downwards. On the top of the ears, and for a maximum of one-third of their length, the coat may be cut with scissors or clipped in the direction of the hair. The lower part shall be left covered in hair, whose length shall increase gradually, from top to bottom, to end in fringes, which may be levelled.
 - d) On the limbs, “trousers”, making a distinct transition from the shaven part of the feet. The length of the hair increases gradually towards the top to display, on the shoulder, and likewise the thigh, a length of 4cm to 7 cm measured by pulling the hair to straighten it, in proportion to the size of the exhibit while avoiding any “fluffy” effect. The hind “trousers” must allow for the typical angulation of the Poodle to be seen. All other fancy clips that do not comply with these norms are eliminatory. Whatever the standard outline obtained by grooming, it should have no

influence whatsoever on the placements in shows, all exhibits in the same class should be judged and placed together.

- **“English Clip”:**
 - To the “Lion Clip”, add motifs on the hindquarters, i.e. bracelets and cuffs. On the head: a topknot. For this clip, the moustache is optional. The absence of demarcation on the hair of the hindquarters is tolerated. The topknot is optional (it is forbidden to use lacquer or any other substance to keep the topknot in place).
- **“Puppy Clip”:**
 - Takes over the several shaven parts that characterise the Modern clip. On the head: a topknot of a reasonable height. The coat on the forequarters should form a ball, comparable to an ‘egg’ seen from the forechest up to the topknot. The so-called ‘trousers’ on the forequarters is preserved, accentuating the typical Poodle angulation. The tail – save for a pom-pom – should have an oval or oblong shape. It should be clipped longer than wide with rounded angles.
- **“Scandinavian clip or Terrier clip”:**
 - The clip is similar to that of the Modern clip, the difference being that the ears and tail may be shaven.