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|  | The poodle's most identifiable characteristic is it's harsh and dense coat which can be presented in many different ways. Another important characteristic is it's proper control of it's temper. Poodles are known for their high intelligence and trainability. While poodles do not like strangers, they do need companionship and do not cope well without regular close interactoin with close family members. Since they have a high intelligent mind they are known for performing well in all sorts of activities. They are extremely friendly with children.       For any living human or living animal, the head is an important part of the body. The head of a poodle is proportionate to the size of the animal. If a poodle is looked at from the side, the head and the muzzle seems roughly parallel to one another. The muzzle is straight and about the equal length of the skull. It is fine with a little chiseling under the eyes but with sufficient depth of an underjaw to prevent snipiness. The lips are tight and black or livered pigmented depending on the color of the dog. Behind those tight lips are a complete set of evenly straight teeth. The nose is a black or liver color, again depending on the color of the dog. They eyes are oval shaped and are set wide apart ready to give an alert and intelligent expression. Just like the nose and the lips, the eye color depends on the color of the coat of the dog. The neck is proportionate and has the strength to keep the head up in a high position when moving or standing. It blends in smoothly with the "well-laid-back shoulders" (u.k.c.). Shoulders are smoothly muscled. The upper arms seems to be in length with the shoulder blades and joins in at the joint at a right angle. The elbows are close to the body while the leg bones are straight with bone and muscle proportionate to the size of the dog. If the dog is viewed from the front, they look parallel. When the dog is viewed from the side, the point of elbow is directly below the withers. A well proportioned poodle's body is square with the length of the body the same as the height. The length of the front legs are just slightly higher than half the body's length. The line of the body drops just slightly off and withers before it is level. The loin is short, loin and muscular with a moderate tuck up. The ribs of a poodle, extend well out from the spine and then curves down and inward to form a deep body. The brisket extends all the way to the elbow, and when viewed from the front, the chest seems well filled and moderately wide. A poodle's hindquarters are muscular with broad second thighs. The way that the hindquarters are set up are the same as the forequarters are set up. When the dog is standing, the short and strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground. But if viewed from the side, it looks parallel. The oval shaped and curved toes are relatively small. The feet do not turn in or out. The nails are short and dark, or self-colored, again, depending on the coat color. If a poodle has dewclaws, then they can be removed. | | | | | | |  |
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