

Tips for New Poodle Fosters

Raising a poodle puppy can come with different challenges. Here are some helpful tips for new poodle fosters!



Handling

Early handling of poodle pups greatly benefits them as it will desensitize pups for their future vet visits, formal training, and grooming. Poodles can be sensitive to touching body parts such as face, paws, ears, etc. Start as early as when the pup is 7-8 weeks old. Spend some time every day to handle those areas and reward them for tolerating. Touch inside and outside of ears, paws and nails, around their eyes, mouth, and nose. Getting used to handling is very important for their future career as working dogs. Repeating this activity will help them to be calm and confident pup in any handling situation!

Acclimating pups to use their equipment early such as jacket, leash, and head halter is also essential for their training. We recommend getting them used to head halter by 14 weeks of age. If having issues with head halter, please contact your puppy rep as we can try different kinds and methods.

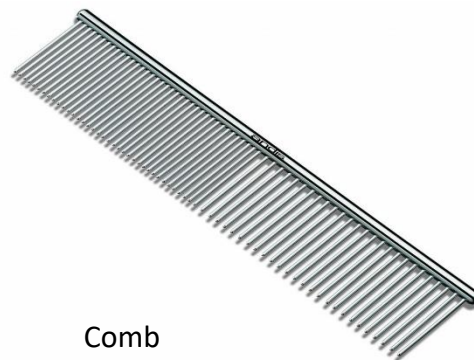
Grooming

Poodles need regular grooming as they have a thick double coat which gets easily matted. It is important for pups to gradually get used to the experience so they can stay calm and feel comfortable during grooming sessions.

Tools Needed



Slicker brush



Comb

Start early! Having grooming experiences from a young age will prepare pups for full grooming sessions from 14 weeks of age. Pups should associate grooming with fun by providing them

with kibbles while being handled and groomed. When the puppy is young, use your hands and fingers to brush softly. If they don't resist, give them food. Repetition of this will get pups to think brushing= fun time. Keep the duration short and gradually increase time and intensity. Contact the puppy rep if having any issues.

We highly recommend first few grooming be done in a professional environment. Most groomers have sessions specifically for the puppy's first grooming where they handle pups gently with professional equipment. The first grooming experience is very important to set the tone for the rest. Enjoyable first few experiences will set the puppy up to be the grooming expert!

Training

When it comes to training poodles, kibbles might not be the most effective way of training as many poodles are not as food motivated as retrievers. There are a few different things we can try but it all comes down to each individual's preferences. For example, we could use a bit of higher value treats when they are old enough or use praises and attention instead of food rewards. When using attention as a reward, you can give kisses, hugs, puppy voices and eye contact, whatever your puppy loves doing with you.

Handfeeding can be another great way to motivate poodles. When handfeeding, you can hold the kibble and let the puppy follow your hand. When they successfully follow, reward them with the kibble and praise. This simple play can get poodles more interested in food rewards.

Toys can also be used as a reward. Some poodles might prefer playing with toys to food or attention. If they perform wanted behaviour, give them playtime with toys. You should be careful with this method as a puppy might get obsessive over a specific toy which is not what we want. If you start seeing this, please contact your puppy rep.

Poodles do great in a structured environment. Having clear boundaries and expectation helps pups understand what their role is and what behaviours are expected. This means that sometimes, you will have to ignore crying, puppy eyes, and begging as some pups may test boundaries and limits. They learn fast and will know they can get away with unwanted behaviours easily without clear structure. Once they understand their roles, they will make great service dogs with their high intelligence and loving nature.

Contact your puppy rep if any issues for troubleshooting as each puppy is different.