

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Picking the Poodle of Your Dreams</i>	7
Chapter 1: Making a Match with a Poodle.....	9
Chapter 2: Unwrapping the Whole Poodle Package	15
Chapter 3: Deciding Whether a Poodle Is Right for You.....	29
Chapter 4: Choosing the Best Poodle for You	33
<i>Part II: Living Happily with Your Poodle</i>	49
Chapter 5: Preparing for Your Poodle's Homecoming.....	51
Chapter 6: Welcoming Your Poodle Home	75
Chapter 7: Providing Your Poodle with a Nutritious Diet	85
Chapter 8: Keeping Your Poodle Clean and Attractive.....	97
<i>Part III: Training and Having Fun with Your Poodle Pal</i>	121
Chapter 9: Housetraining Made Easy.....	123
Chapter 10: Instilling Good Manners in Your Poodle.....	137
Chapter 11: Socializing Your Poodle	159
Chapter 12: Hitting the Road with Your Poodle	165
Chapter 13: Showing Off and Enjoying Your Poodle's Talents.....	177
<i>Part IV: Maintaining Your Poodle's Health</i>	191
Chapter 14: Taking Basic Care of Your Poodle's Health	193
Chapter 15: Considering Common Poodle Conditions	213
Chapter 16: Staying Prepared with First-Aid Basics	225
Chapter 17: Easing Your Senior Poodle into the Golden Years	239
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	249
Chapter 18: Ten (or So) Great Sets of Poodle Resources	251
Chapter 19: Ten Ways to Help Your Poodle if Disaster Strikes.....	255
<i>Index</i>	259

Table of Contents

***Introduction* 1**

About This Book	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
What You're Not to Read.....	3
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	4
Part I: Picking the Poodle of Your Dreams.....	4
Part II: Living Happily with Your Poodle.....	4
Part III: Training and Having Fun with Your Poodle Pal	5
Part IV: Maintaining Your Poodle's Health	5
Part V: The Part of Tens	5
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here	6

***Part I: Picking the Poodle of Your Dreams* 7**

Chapter 1: Making a Match with a Poodle 9

Understanding the Poodle Breed.....	9
Strolling through a brief history	9
Reviewing sizes and personality traits	10
Considering breed standards.....	11
To Poodle or Not to Poodle: Is One the Best Dog for You?	11
Selecting the Perfect Poodle for You	12
Adjusting to Life with a Poodle	12
Training and Enjoying Your Poodle	13
Keeping Your Poodle Healthy.....	14

Chapter 2: Unwrapping the Whole Poodle Package . . . 15

Walking through the History of the Breed	15
In the beginning, there was dog	15
The appearance of Poodle varieties.....	17
The Poodle's modern rise in popularity.....	17
Picturing a Poodle's Physical Traits and Personality.....	19
Measuring up sizes	19
Scoping out a Poodle's anatomy.....	20
Taking a look at temperament	22
Surveying Breed Standards	22
The American Kennel Club.....	23
The United Kennel Club.....	26



Chapter 3: Deciding Whether a Poodle Is Right for You 29

Asking Yourself a Few Important Questions Upfront29
Does a Poodle fit in with your lifestyle?30
Do you have room for a Poodle?.....30
How will a Poodle respond to your children
and other pets?30
Considering the Costs of Poodle Ownership31
How much is that doggy? Money matters31
The clock's ticking: Time issues32

Chapter 4: Choosing the Best Poodle for You 33

Selecting the Traits You Want in a Poodle33
Puppy or adult?.....33
Toy, Miniature, or Standard?35
Male or female?35
Which color?36
Deciding Where to Find Your Poodle36
Beginning with breeders36
Considering shelters and rescue groups42
Wondering about pet shops44
Choosing a Healthy Poodle.....45
Registering Your Poodle.....46
American Kennel Club registration46
United Kennel Club registration47
Perusing a pedigree after you register
your Poodle47

***Part II: Living Happily with Your Poodle*49**

Chapter 5: Preparing for Your Poodle's Homecoming 51

Outfitting Your Home with Crates, Gates, and Ex-pens51
Crates52
Gates.....54
Ex-pens56
Buying Comfortable Bedding56
Staying Attached with Collars and Leads57
Shopping for collars57
Looking at leads59
Securing Proper ID for Your Poodle.....60
Beautifying Your Poodle with the Right Grooming Tools.....61
Hair care.....61
Nail care62
Self-grooming considerations.....62
Savoring the Details of Food and Bowls.....64

Getting the Scoop on Cleanup Tools65

Finding Toys for Toys (And, Yes, Miniatures
and Standards)66

 Following a few toy guidelines66

 Gnawing on chew toys66

 Rollicking with retrieving toys67

 Settling on squeaky toys68

 Getting creative with homemade toys68

Poodle-Proofing Your Home69

 On the inside69

 Out in the yard70

Choosing Special Spaces for Your Poodle72

 The eating spot73

 The sleeping spot73

 The potty spot.....74

Scheduling a Checkup with Your Vet.....74

Chapter 6: Welcoming Your Poodle Home 75

Picking Up Your Poodle.....75

 Selecting the right day and the right time.....75

 Taking home other items besides the Poodle.....76

 Traveling home safely77

Giving Your Poodle the Grand Tour.....78

Meeting Other Family Members.....79

 Kids in the house79

 Other pets80

Surviving the First Night82

Anticipating Possible Problems and Planning
Sensible Solutions82

 Avoiding bad habits from the outset.....83

 Handling food issues83

 Getting used to grooming84

**Chapter 7: Providing Your Poodle
with a Nutritious Diet 85**

Knowing the Nutrients that Your Poodle Needs85

Dishing Out Main Meals87

 Choosing among dry, canned,
 and semi-moist foods87

 Doing some home cooking89

 Getting the scoop on raw foods.....90

 Steering clear of table scraps.....91

 Keeping water, water everywhere91

Giving Snacks and Treats Smartly92

 Giving out snacks.....92

 Trying treats.....92

Establishing a Feeding Routine93
 Feeding at set times.....93
 Having food available all the time94
 Knowing how much food to feed94
Changing Your Poodle's Diet as He Grows.....95
Avoiding Certain Foods.....95

**Chapter 8: Keeping Your Poodle
Clean and Attractive 97**

Drawing Up a Grooming Schedule97
Deciding between Professional and Personal Grooming99
 Grooming in your personal Poodle salon99
 Ushering your Poodle to a groomer101
Getting to the Root of Hair Care.....102
 Brushing and combing102
 Bathing and drying104
Clipping Your Poodle107
 Keeping it simple with pet clips.....107
 Showing off with show clips109
Fresh from Head to Toe: Tackling
 Other Grooming Tasks.....113
 Trimming your Poodle's nails113
 Keeping an eye on your Poodle's eyes.....115
 Examining the ears116
 Doing some dental work118

***Part III: Training and Having Fun
with Your Poodle Pal..... 121***

Chapter 9: Housetraining Made Easy 123

Littering Your Brain with Housetraining Basics.....123
 Setting up a housetraining schedule
 for your Poodle124
 Staying consistent (yet flexible)
 in your training routine.....126
 Speeding up the training process126
 Recognizing the telltale "I gotta go!" signs127
Mastering Effective Housetraining Methods128
 Sleeping the day away: Crate training.....128
 Putting pee to paper: Paper training129
 Scratch and sprinkle: Litter training131
 Surveying additional indoor training options.....132
Getting the Scoop on Cleanup Duty134
 Cleaning up inside134
 Cleaning up in the great outdoors.....136

Chapter 10: Instilling Good Manners in Your Poodle 137

Getting a Grip on Some Disciplinary Basics137

Handling a Collar and Lead.....138

 Collaring your Poodle139

 Leading on141

Training Your Poodle with Basic Commands142

 Come!.....143

 Sit!145

 Down!.....146

 Stay!.....147

 Leave it!.....148

 Heel!.....148

Overcoming Common Canine Behavior Problems149

 Barking at the mailman, at neighbors,
 at squirrels, at150

 I beg you — no begging!.....152

 Chewing on everything152

 Nipping and mouthing153

 Digging up some trouble.....154

 Jump, jumping around155

 Aggression against others155

Finding Professional Help156

 Attending classes.....156

 Taking private lessons157

 Seeking out animal behaviorists.....158

Chapter 11: Socializing Your Poodle 159

Acclimating Your Poodle to New Faces.....159

 Meeting the neighbors159

 Setting up play dates160

 Enrolling in puppy kindergarten
 or other classes.....161

Handling Strange Situations, Objects, and Noises.....162

 Going for car rides162

 Adjusting to unfamiliar situations and objects.....163

 Easing a fear of loud noises164

Chapter 12: Hitting the Road with Your Poodle 165

Checking Out Your Traveling Options.....165

 By car165

 By air167

Taking Care of Other Trip Details170

 Packing it in170

 Carrying the proper ID171

 Staying at a Poodle-friendly place172

Leaving Your Poodle at Home173

 Boarding your Poodle173

 Picking a pet sitter175

**Chapter 13: Showing Off and Enjoying
Your Poodle's Talents 177**

Passing the Canine Good Citizen Test.....177
 Preparing for the test178
 Taking the test.....178
Looking Good: Conformation Shows179
 How can you and your Poodle get ready
 for conformation shows?179
 How does a conformation show work?.....181
Testing Skills: Rally Events182
Oh, Behave! Obedience Events183
Staying on Course: Agility Events185
 Surveying an agility course185
 Looking at rules and levels.....186
On the Prowl: Hunt Tests187
 Equipping yourself and training187
 Hunting at different levels188
 Earning qualifying scores188
The Nose Knows: Tracking Tests.....189
Sharing the Love: Therapy Poodles.....189
 How a therapy dog helps189
 How to become certified (and other
 considerations)190

Part IV: Maintaining Your Poodle's Health..... 191

**Chapter 14: Taking Basic Care
of Your Poodle's Health 193**

Choosing the Right Veterinarian and
Setting a Schedule.....193
 Knowing what to look for in a vet.....194
 Asking a potential vet important questions195
 Setting up regular checkups.....196
Surveying Alternative Healthcare Choices197
 On pins and needles: Acupuncture197
 Back to basics: Chiropractic medicine199
 Doggie day spa: Massage treatment.....199
 All-natural: Herbal treatments200
 Homeopathy.....202
Taking a Shot at Good Health with Vaccinations202
 Checking out available vaccines.....202
 Scheduling shots.....204
Nip and Tuck: The Basics of Spaying and Neutering.....205
 What happens during spaying and neutering?206
 When should you spay or neuter your Poodle?207

Keeping an Eye on Your Poodle’s Health at Home208
 Exercising your Poodle208
 Checking your Poodle regularly210
 Giving medications210

Chapter 15: Considering Common Poodle Conditions 213

Ouch! Treating Everyday Illnesses and Injuries.....213
 Cuts and scrapes213
 Lumps and bumps214
 Skin problems.....214
 Tummy aches215
 Ear issues.....215
 Internal parasites.....216
 External parasites217
 Limping219
 Surveying Other Common Poodle Health Issues220
 Bloat220
 Epilepsy.....220
 Hormonal problems221
 Orthopedic issues222
 Vision conditions223
 Von Willebrand’s Disease.....224

Chapter 16: Staying Prepared with First-Aid Basics 225

Stocking the Essentials in Your Canine First-Aid Kit225
 Traditional medicines226
 Holistic medicines228
 Performing Basic First-Aid Techniques
 on Your Poodle228
 Taking your Poodle’s temperature and pulse229
 Muzzling your Poodle.....229
 Moving your Poodle safely230
 Giving artificial respiration.....230
 Treating shock231
 Coming to Your Poodle’s Rescue
 in Specific Emergencies232
 Lacerations and bleeding233
 Different types of wounds233
 Broken bones234
 Heatstroke235
 Frostbite.....236
 Choking236
 Poisoning (including insect bites and stings).....237
 Electrocution.....238

**Chapter 17: Easing Your Senior Poodle
into the Golden Years 239**

Instituting a Sensible Senior Diet239
Exercising Your Senior Poodle240
Handling Senior Health Issues.....241
 Potty problems241
 Arthritis.....242
 Hearing problems243
 Fading eyesight244
Saying Goodbye to Your Beloved Poodle245
 Knowing when the time has come.....245
 Deciding whether to be with your Poodle
 at the end247
 Memorializing your Poodle247
 Dealing with your grief.....248

Part V: The Part of Tens.....249

**Chapter 18: Ten (or So) Great Sets
of Poodle Resources 251**

Kennel and Poodle Clubs251
Rescue Groups252
Grooming252
Training252
Travel.....253
Performance Events and Other Fun Activities.....253
Therapy Dogs253
Healthcare.....254
Memorials254

**Chapter 19: Ten Ways to Help Your Poodle
if Disaster Strikes. 255**

Stock and Store Necessary Supplies255
 A crate255
 Food and water256
 Medications and vaccination records.....256
 Identification256
 An extra lead256
Make a List of What You Need.....257
Consider Places Where You Can Go257
Examine Your Transportation Options257
Plan to Leave Your Poodle with Other Folks
 if Necessary258
Succumb to Your Last Resort: Turn
 Your Poodle Loose258

Index259