



Hunting Style of the Poodle

The Poodle historically was a versatile hunting dog, developed pre-firearms, originally to 'spring'(flush) game birds and small game in the Medieval era for nobleman's falcons.

Currently the Poodle is a versatile, all-purpose hunting dog, adept at finding and retrieving upland game birds and retrieving waterfowl. Training and field experience can affect the degree to which a Poodle exhibits the hunting style described below. The following is an overview of the typical characteristics shown by both Standard and Miniature Poodles while hunting upland game.

The Poodle covers ground efficiently and at a moderately quick pace maintaining its endurance throughout a day in the field. Some Poodles will occasionally employ a bouncing technique, particularly in high, dense cover.

The Poodle possesses an excellent nose, hearing, drive and intelligence. He will use all of these attributes, plus ground and air scent, to find and flush game.

The poodle will generally maintain a reasonable working distance, quartering gun to gun if trained to do so, although windshield wiper-like quartering may not be typical, it will focus on those areas that are more likely to hold birds, showing no reluctance to enter even the densest cover.

After finding game, the Poodle may slow as it attempts to locate the bird using scent, sight and hearing. A determined drive toward the bird then completes the flush.

Both hard and softer flushes are equally acceptable. The athleticism of the Poodle will often enable it to catch the flushed bird. The Poodle should show no reluctance to retrieve to the handler from either land or water.

Poodles are generally excellent markers on land and water.

In conclusion, a Poodle is a very capable upland hunting dog. He is an efficient hunter who will search the field to find birds. The "style" demonstrated by a flushing dog of any breed must culminate in finding/flushing and retrieving the birds. A dog that fails to do this no matter his style, cannot pass the test.