

## Reference for New Poodle Puppy Owners - IMPORTANT INFO

### Ear Hair

Get the hair out of your puppy (and adult's ears) regularly. You don't need to get every single hair, but get most of it. Purchase some ear powder (I like Bio groom astringent ear powder) but most any EAR powder will do. You can buy this online at jefferspet.com, petedge.com, and probably most retail walk in or online stores. Put a SMALL amount of powder in the dog's ear or on your fingertips, and very gently pull the hair out. It comes out easily if pulled in small segments. Make sure your groomer, if you have one, does this and knows how to do it. Some are very skilled and can get it all before your dog even knows what's up, but you definitely don't want "carpet ears"

### Bathing & Grooming Checks Between Baths

When bathing your poodle in between grooming sessions, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

Always put cotton balls in the ears to avoid getting water in there. You should still check periodically to make sure the cotton is still there (they shake their heads and send the cotton flying sometimes) and if the cotton is wet, replace it with dry cotton. I cannot stress this enough. Once your puppy gets an ear infection from moisture/wax/dirt, etc, you will have problems getting them comfortable with having their ears touched and cleaned, because it hurts. The best way to avoid this problem is to keep the ears clean and free of hair and buildup and most importantly - DRY! Check ears and also check your puppy's paw pads for burrs and general condition of skin. Open their mouths and look inside for anything that jumps out at you as worrisome. Their breaths should not have a foul odor. If they still have puppy teeth (which they really shouldn't by 6 months) make sure you provide knuckle bones, ropes, and pig ears to loosen the dead teeth. If you have any doubts about the well-being of your pup's mouth, consult your vet. Once, when Comet was about 6 mos old, we were on a trip in Florida and I opened her mouth to check it and something white and sharp was sticking out of her gums! I thought this was strange, so I called my grooming mentor, Meg Wood, and she coached me through the process inspecting and removing it. It was a puppy lower canine that was very sharp and settled into her gum, over time making a nice little hole. It came right out with a tweezers and some Listerine, but I can remember panicking and not knowing what to do! So it's always good to check on your pup's mouth. Poodles are a narrow-mouthed breed and sometimes lower canines can be too narrow and cause pain and stunting (called base narrow

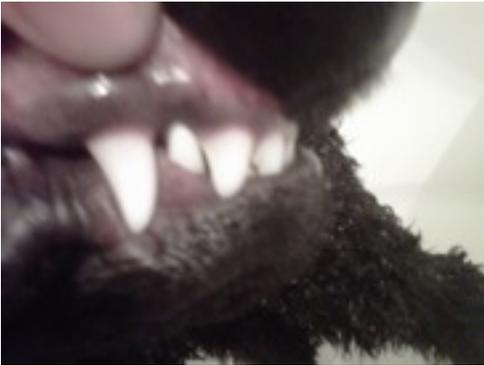
canines) to the upper palate and adult lower canine. This is a serious and painful problem but can be easily fixed. If you suspect you are having this problem, your pup needs to be seen by a doggie dentist asap. One thing you can do to encourage the lower teeth out on the incline plane is to gently hold pressure to the bottom



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teeth, pushing out. You can really influence this in the right direction without having to put your puppy through expensive or risky procedures. See photos. The above photo was taken on April 13. Upon regular exam of mouth, I noticed bottom pointy (canine) was headed for the roof of the mouth. Luckily, this tooth was still in eruption and I had time to change the course before damage to the palate was done. I consulted my dental vet in Houston, sent him this photo, and received instruction to begin applying gentle pressure out and up, and if we did not notice a change soon, we would need to go in and get a quick procedure done to move the tooth along the incline plane. Naturally, I didn't want to take a

10+hour round trip, so I got to work



See Left: Just three days later, I am relieved to see the lower canine clearing the palate and headed outwards in the correct scissors position. No trip to the dental vet was needed! Hooray! I am happy to report that Giselle's tooth continued to grow correctly and her bite is quite lovely (and more importantly correct) now. An incorrect bite can not only cause pain and discomfort, but can get a dog kicked out of the show ring in two seconds flat. It is not something that

should be cosmetically fixed and bred, as it is easily reproduced and no matter how nice of a show dog, it can not be shown with a bad bite. But, with any narrow-mouth breed this is a possibility, and any new poodle puppy owner should be on the lookout for it. This is one reason we like a "finish of chin" on the standard poodle. It gives the bottom teeth more room!

### **Bathing & Clipping**

\*Use shampoo followed by conditioner when bathing. Rinse the shampoo completely out of the coat before applying conditioner and work the conditioner through the coat very well prior to rinsing. Conditioner is important in this breed because their coats are very coarse. If you fail to do this step, the coat will become dry, harsh, and break easily. When in doubt about what products to use, go with oatmeal shampoo and conditioner. It is very gentle and safe. You can also use baby shampoo for the head around the eyes if you're worried about getting soap in the eyes.

\*If you are going to try to clip your own poodle, I recommend using a #15 blade around the face, feet, and base of tail. It is almost impossible to cut them with this length of blade. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email. Don't clip too

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high on the feet. You don't want ankle showing but should be able to see the bottom of the foot.

I highly recommend the book *Poodle Clipping and Grooming* by Shirlee Kalstone, if you're going to brave this task. Also take care to check the temperature of your blade at all times, as many of them heat up quickly and burn your poodle (which will hurt and make them fight & leave ugly red spots and scabs), especially if you buy a cheaper clippers. I often lay the back of my blade against my cheek. If it's too hot for me, it's too hot for them!

I have a Bravura clipper by Wahl

<http://www.kvsupply.com/KVVet/productr.asp?pf%5Fid=81697&gift=False&HSLB=False&mscssid=72A85FD39B89405E9910E680397F7053>

It was about \$150, but the blade is adjustable and it comes with combs so you can really groom the whole poodle without picking up a pair of shears. It's quite awesome and goes for a while without getting too hot, even if you're a little slow and new to grooming. Be careful! It used to take me 2 days to groom my whole poodle, but you will get faster! Promise!

If you want to buy shears, email me for recommendations. They vary in price considerably.

### **Parasites**

\*It's flea, tick, and mosquito season. Please keep your poodles up to date on their heartworm preventative (year-round) and flea preventative. If they get fleas, have them checked/treated for tapeworms (this is usually a separate medication you need to get from the vet). They get the tapeworms from eating the fleas and tapes are tough to get rid of and also contagious (to other pets and people). Regular wormers don't do the trick. You need specific tapeworm medicine. Also beware when walking your dog or at outings to keep it away from other dogs' poop. Tapeworms will cause your dog discomfort and also steal the nutrition from his/her food.

Mosquitoes cause heartworms which are deadly and expensive to treat. My puppies all had one dose of heartworm preventative prior to going home with you. Please keep them current and if you miss doses consult your vet for heartworm testing. It's cheap and quick to get results - way easier to prevent than cure!

Always feel free to call, text, or email with any questions. Owning poodles leaves something to learn all the time. One more note on behavior - never let your puppy think he/she is the boss. Always, always, always insist upon what you want. They are smart and can be manipulative :)

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Maria Salpietra  
Cadeau Poodles  
[504-913-7191](tel:504-913-7191)

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<http://www.cadeaupoodles.com>